320.9
LLI
V. 32
No. 4
C. 3

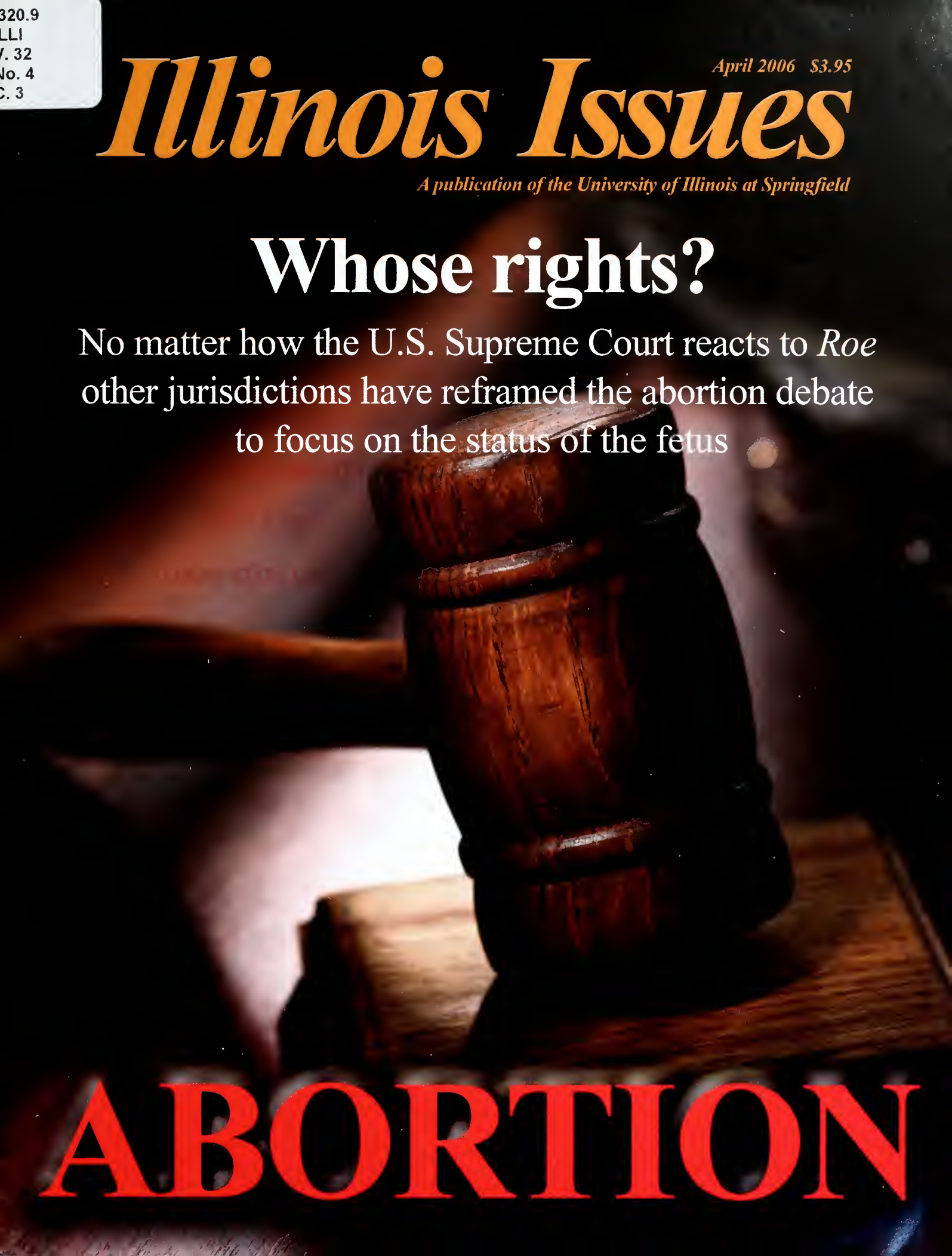
April 2006 $3.95

# Illinois Issues

A publication of the University of Illinois at Springfield

## Whose rights?

No matter how the U.S. Supreme Court reacts to *Roe* other jurisdictions have reframed the abortion debate to focus on the status of the fetus



# ABORTION

# Order now!

## *Illinois Issues*

# 2006 Roster

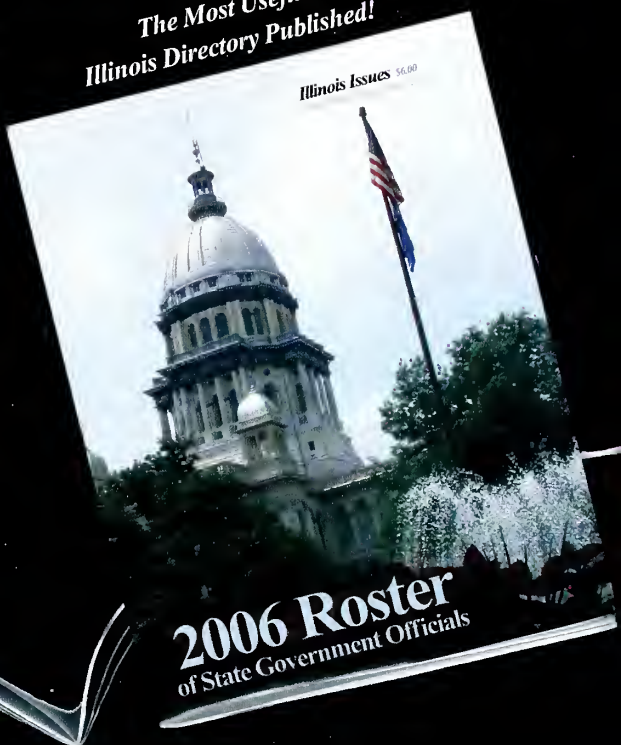
## of State Government Officials

***ADDRESSES • PHONE NUMBERS • FAX NUMBERS • E-MAIL ADDRESSES • WEB SITE ADDRESSES • LEGISLATIVE MAPS PLUS, PHOTOS OF ALL LEGISLATORS, AND MUCH MORE!***

**PRICE LIST*:**

| NUMBER OF COPIES | COST PER COPY | S&H: TOTAL FOR ORDER |
|---|---|---|
| 1-10 | $6.00 | $3.00 |
| 11-25 | $5.00 | $5.00 |
| 26-50 | $4.50 | $7.00 |
| 100 | $4.00 | $10.00 |
| 250+ | $3.00 | $20.00 |

*The Most Useful Illinois Directory Published!*




This 8-1/2 x 11 slick magazine-style *Roster of State Government Officials* fits neatly into your desk drawer or filing cabinet. Completely updated for 2006, it includes listings for the governor and all other statewide constitutional officers, as well as major executive agencies and their directors. You'll find all Illinois legislators and their district addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers, e-mail addresses, and Web sites. Also includes the Illinois Supreme Court, the Illinois congressional delegation, and media/reporters who cover state government. *Plus*, hundreds of key staff members who work with these officials.

**To order call 217/206-6084**

**Illinois Issues* subscribers automatically get a FREE copy of the Roster.



# Our new online journal aims to connect with more Illinoisans

by Peggy Boyer Long


YES! I want to subscribe to *Illinois Issues*
for one full year. (11 issues in all) at the special introductory rate of just $39.95.

My name _____
Address _____
_____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Daytime Phone: _____
❑ Payment enclosed Account# _____
❑ Bill me later Exp. date _____
❑ MasterCard Signature _____
❑ VISA For faster service, call **1-800-508-0266**.

*The Most Useful Illinois Directory Published*
Illinois Issues




B406


As is the case with many other news organizations, an editor will get a look at Bethany's post before the rest of the extend our reach.

In short, some thought went into creating this blog. There's a history disseminating news has the potential to transform the traditional relationships among news sources, news producers



# *Order now!*

## *Illinois Issues*

# 2006 Roster

## of State Government Officials

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

**BUSINESS REPLY MAIL**
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 1901 SPRINGFIELD, IL

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

*Illinois Issues*
**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT SPRINGFIELD**
PO Box 19243
Springfield IL 62794-9980



**To order call 217/206-6084**

**Illinois Issues* subscribers automatically get a FREE copy of the Roster.



# Our new online journal aims to connect with more Illinoisans

by Peggy Boyer Long

*Illinois Issues* has logged onto the blogosphere.

Bethany Carson, our Statehouse bureau chief, launched the magazine's first online journal, known as a Web log, blog for short, just in time to track the scheduled end of this spring's legislative session.

Bethany's blog can be read at *http://illinoisissuesblog.blogspot.com*.

In the short run, her daily posts will enable us to bridge the information gap between this edition and our upcoming May issue. In the months to come, her weekly posts will enable us to offer eyewitness accounts of policy deliberations at the state Capitol, along with a front-row seat on some of the political gamesmanship. This more casual, personal, even idiosyncratic, style is not often appropriate in the pages of the magazine, or even on our Web news page, which can still be read at *http://illinoisissues.uis.edu*.

"We'll use our blog as a way to keep up-to-date information available at your fingertips, with the intention to clear up misinformation, not add to the rumor mill," Bethany writes in the welcome to her blog.

As is the case with many other news organizations, an editor will get a look at Bethany's post before the rest of the world does. And while readers will be encouraged to message her, their responses won't be part of her blog.

***Yet, without adaptation, a blog could end up being antithetical to the magazine's stated mission to provide in-depth information and insight about Illinois government and politics.***

I recognize that, for most bloggerati, such restrictions violate the form and spirit of this still emerging medium. Yet, without adaptation, a blog could end up being antithetical to the magazine's stated mission to provide in-depth information and insight about Illinois government and politics. We do, however, see an online journal as a chance to enhance that mission and extend our reach.

In short, some thought went into creating this blog. There's a history behind this go-slow approach to our stewardship of the magazine, which has for three decades plus practiced what some New Media theorists say they want: nonprofit public service journalism.

A few years ago, the magazine's staff considered what might be gained or lost in creating our first Web site. A top concern, as it has been with most magazines and newspapers, was whether an electronic edition would undercut the printed edition. In the end, we agreed that any risks were outweighed by the value of reaching more readers with a portion of each monthly issue. Since then, we have grown to appreciate our ability to track breaking news in the electronic format.

We hope to make that site more interactive in the future by offering our readers a chance to explore significant policy questions for themselves.

But even a seemingly simple blog raises some fundamental questions. In a sense, the blogosphere is merely an advance in communications technology. Yet it really is far more than that — or could be. Taken to a logical extension, this latest means of disseminating news has the potential to transform the traditional relationships among news sources, news producers

## ADVISORY BOARD

CHAIR
***Diana Nelson**, executive director, Cross City Campaign for Urban School Reform, Chicago.*

VICE CHAIR
***Taylor Pensoneau**, author and president of the board of directors, Illinois Center for the Book, Springfield.*

MEMBERS
***MarySue Barrett**, president, Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago.*
***Margaret Blackshere**, president, Illinois AFL-CIO.*
***Robert J. Christie**, vice president, government relations, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago.*
***Darcy Davidsmeyer**, director, state government relations, Motorola Inc., Schaumburg.*
***Kathleen Dunn**, vice president, government relations, Illinois Hospital Association.*
***Jim Edgar**, senior fellow, Institute of Government and Public Affairs, University of Illinois.*
***Sharon Gist Gilliam**, chairperson, Chicago Housing Authority.*
***Lawrence N. Hansen**, vice president, Joyce Foundation, Chicago.*
***Doris B. Holleb**, professorial lecturer, University of Chicago.*
***Jetta Norris Jones**, attorney, Chicago.*
***Robert J. Klaus**, president and CEO, Oral Health America, Chicago.*
***Mike Lawrence**, director, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.*
***Joan W. Levy**, education consultant, Northbrook.*
***William E. Lowry**, vice president for Human Resources and Administration, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Chicago.*
***Roberta Lynch**, deputy director, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Chicago.*
***Jeff Mays**, president, Illinois Business Roundtable, Chicago.*
***Abner J. Mikva**, visiting professor of law, University of Chicago.*
***Laurence J. Msall**, president, The Civic Federation, Chicago.*
***Dawn Clark Netsch**, professor of law emeritus, Northwestern University School of Law, Chicago.*
***Felicia F. Norwood**, head of Medicaid, Aetna, Inc., Chicago.*
***Aurie Pennick**, executive director, Field Foundation of Illinois, Chicago.*
***Betsy A. Plank**, principal, Betsy Plank Public Relations, Chicago.*
***Sylvia Puente**, director, Metropolitan Chicago Initiative, Institute for Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame.*
***Philip J. Rock**, attorney, Rock, Fusco & Associates, LLC, Chicago.*
***Tom Ryder**, attorney, W. Thomas Ryder, LTD, Springfield.*
***Anna Eleanor Roosevelt**, director, community and education relations, Boeing Co., Chicago.*
***Chuck Scholz**, former mayor of Quincy.*
***Paula Wolff**, senior executive, Chicago Metropolis 2020.*

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
***Barbara E. Ferrara**, interim executive director, Center for State Policy and Leadership, University of Illinois at Springfield.*
***Robert F. Rich**, director, Institute of Government and Public Affairs, University of Illinois.*

FOUNDING MEMBER
***Samuel K. Gove**, professor emeritus of political science, University of Illinois.*

MEMBERS EMERITUS
*(years served on board in parentheses)*
*Michael J. Bakalis (1983-2001), James M. Banovetz (1986-2005), James L. Fletcher (1983-2000), David Kenney (1978-90), Louis H. Masotti (1978-92), James T. Otis (1975-94), David J. Paulus (1988-94), Carl Shier (1978-87).*


and news consumers, argue David Kline and Dan Burstein.

These authors, both journalists and businessmen, examine this possibility in depth in *blog! how the newest media revolution is changing politics, business, and culture*.

If the sources and the consumers begin to produce the news, what then?

As a journalist who came of age 40 years ago, I know past efforts to democratize the gathering and distribution of news can and has helped to improve the craft and, to some extent, the institution of journalism.

But as an editor and former reporter in what bloggers call "the mainstream media," I know that journalists, at their highest purpose, must select from an endless stream of random facts precisely those the citizenry needs, then synthesize them in a way that makes their meaning clear. This takes work, by journalists and citizens.

As for blogs, I'm just old enough to think that reading many of them is akin to perusing the postings on a stranger's refrigerator door. However amusing or insightful the separate scraps, it's often hard to see what, if anything, they add up to.

Yet the potential for improving journalistic practices and reaching more and different kinds of citizens can't be dismissed. And, in our own pages, *Illinois Issues* has assessed the impact of blogs on political discourse. (See "Brave new medium," June 2005, page 25.)

In *blog!*, New York University journalism professor Jay Rosen, a blogger himself, argues the "battle" between reporters and bloggers is over anyway. "Now, bloggers are being led towards journalism and journalists are being led towards blogging. One of the primary reasons for that is that the ideal blogger is somebody with a journalist's skill.

"Journalists are very well adapted to the blogging form."

But Rosen believes there's work to be done. "There is also a profound and fascinating question that needs to be answered: What does the weblog form bring to daily journalism? There is so much potential with the powers of the Net, particularly the horizontal communication that the Internet makes possible for a vertical form like journalism. We don't know how to do that yet. We don't know how open-source journalism should work. We don't know how to fund it. We don't know how to organize it. All that work lies ahead."

We aim to explore some of these questions ourselves in the months ahead. In the meantime, we invite our readers to check out Bethany's blog. ❑

*Peggy Boyer Long can be reached at peggyboy@aol.com.*

## *To blog or not to blog?*

Blogging has the potential to re-engage citizens and re-energize journalists. This, in essence, is the theme of *blog!*, a balanced introduction to what authors David Kline and Dan Burstein, journalists and bloggers themselves, call "one important wave of innovation that is contributing to restoring the lost voice of the ordinary citizen in our culture." Their book was published last year by CDS Books, in association with Squibnocket Partners LLC.

The blogosphere is not without its problems, they agree. Many bloggers spread gossip and trivia. Most are heavily reliant on the "mainstream media." But blogs are self-correcting. They turn stones journalists step over. They can mobilize an army of unpaid experts eager to fact-check obscure information on short notice. And, facing a far more unforgiving marketplace than most journalists, the quality blogs rise while the rest flop.

Still, some 40,000 new ones are created each day, according to these authors.

They don't predict the future of blogging, though they invite practitioners and theorists to do so. The most compelling assessment is that journalism and the blogosphere will meet in the middle. The best bloggers will adopt some journalistic standards and the best journalists will relearn the value in connecting with citizens.

*Peggy Boyer Long*

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS
APR
ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY

# Illinois Issues

A publication of the University of Illinois at Springfield

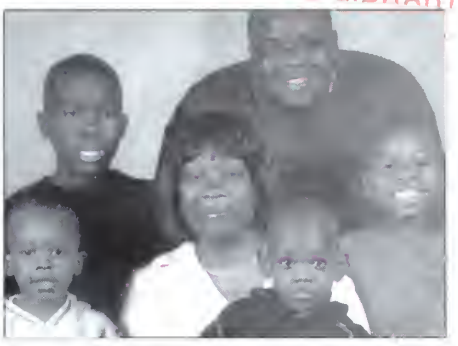
*April 2006* *Volume XXXII, No. 4*



*Hard-working class, page 25*



*Whose rights? page 17*



*Weekends into weeks, page 23*

## FEATURES

17 ***Essay*** Whose rights? by Nanette Elster
*No matter how the U.S. Supreme Court reacts to* Roe, *other jurisdictions have reframed the abortion debate to focus on the status of the fetus.*

20 Deeper scars by Bethany Carson
*Illinois soldiers face physical dangers in Iraq and Afghanistan. But when they come home, some encounter the aftermath of war within themselves.*

23 Weekends into weeks by Jasmine Washington
*More grandparents are caring for their grandchildren, but many still don't realize the value of legal custody until they encounter challenges.*

25 Hard-working class by Jennifer Halperin
*The struggle to get by drives up the numbers of Latinos who live in the suburban Chicago region.*

28 ***Profiles*** Birds, bats and bugs by Chris Young, Ashley Wiehle, Vera Leopold
*Nature offer plenty of specialties for those who want to study its creatures.*

## DEPARTMENTS

3 EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK
*The magazine has a new blog.*
by Peggy Boyer Long

6 STATE OF THE STATE
*Critics hit governor's budget strategy.*
by Bethany Carson

8 BRIEFLY

34 PEOPLE

36 LETTERS

37 ENDS AND MEANS
*Illinois workers have it tough.*
by Charles N. Wheeler III

## STAFF

***Director/Executive Editor, Center Publications***
Peggy Boyer Long

MAGAZINE EDITORIAL
***Managing Editor:*** Maureen Foertsch McKinney
***Projects Editor:*** Beverley Scobell
***Statehouse Bureau Chief:*** Bethany Carson
***Columnist:*** Charles N. Wheeler III
***Public Affairs Reporting Intern:*** Jasmine Washington
***Graduate Assistant:*** Vera Leopold
***Editorial Assistant:*** Debi Edmund

BOOKS EDITORIAL
***Associate Editor:*** Amy Karhliker

BUSINESS
***Circulation & Marketing Manager:*** Charlene Lambert
***Business Manager:*** Toni L. Langdon

PRODUCTION
***Art Director:*** Diana L.C. Nelson

*Illinois Issues* is published by Center Publications
***Center for State Policy and Leadership***
http://cspl.uis.edu

***Credits:*** *Our cover was designed by Diana L.C. Nelson.*

***Editorial and business office:*** HRB 10, University of Illinois at Springfield, One University Plaza, Springfield, IL 62703-5407. Telephone: 217-206-6084. Fax: 217-206-7257. E-mail: illinoisissues@uis.edu. E-mail editor: boyer-long.peggy@uis.edu.
***Subscription questions:*** *Illinois Issues*, Subscription Division, P.O. Box 2795, Springfield, IL 62708-2795 or call 1-800-508-0266. Hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Central Time, Monday-Friday (except holidays). ***Subscriptions:*** $39.95 one year/ $72 two years/ $105 three years; student rate is $20 a year. Individual copy is $3.95. Back issue is $5. *Illinois Issues* is indexed in the PAIS Bulletin and is available electronically on our home page: http://illinoisissues.uis.edu. *Illinois Issues* (ISSN 0738-9663) is published monthly, except during the summer when July and August are combined. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, IL, and additional mailing offices.
***Postmaster:*** Send address changes to *Illinois Issues*, Subscription Division, P.O. Box 19243, Springfield, IL 62794-9243.
*©2006 by* Illinois Issues, *University of Illinois at Springfield, One University Plaza, Springfield, IL 62703-5407. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without prior written permission is prohibited.* Illinois Issues *is published by the University of Illinois at Springfield. In addition to university support and subscription income, the magazine is supported by grants and donations. The contents of the magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the university or the donors.*

Bethany Carson



# Critics say the governor robs Peter to pay Paul when he sweeps special funds

by Bethany Carson

Rep. Raymond Poe has gotten calls from contractors who clean up the environment whenever an underground storage tank leaks. They're nervous there won't be enough money in a special state fund designated for cleanup jobs because the governor could swipe excess cash at the end of the fiscal year.

"You can't sweep funds from an account that has ongoing business," says Poe, a Springfield Republican. "It could build up, and then all the sudden, you could have four or five claims."

Poe joined a group of Republicans in sending a message to the governor: Enough is enough. Stop raiding special funds as one-time revenue sources to balance the budget.

For the past three years, Gov. Rod Blagojevich has tapped about 280 of 650 special purpose funds, transferring a total of $1.1 billon in surplus money, says Becky Carroll, spokesperson for the governor's budget office.

Republicans have been the primary critics of this fiscal strategy. But a few Democrats sponsored measures to protect some of those funds, sending another message to the governor: Where should state government draw the line?

These legislative proposals raise red flags on behalf of services that depend on the funds, including cleanup of leaky underground tanks and rehabilitation of veterans. Others question whether such sweeps are even legal.

***These legislative proposals raise red flags on behalf of services that depend on the funds, including cleanup of leaky underground tanks and rehabilitation of veterans.***

The special funds set money aside for specific purposes, such as controlling pollution and preventing youth drug abuse. They accumulate money through licensing fees and a variety of sources that are supposed to pay for the costs of regulating and operating those services. In 2003, the General Assembly granted the governor the ability to charge 8 percent of the funds' revenue to pay their "fair share" of administrative services provided by the state. Taking surplus money is referred to as "fund sweeps," while charging up to 8 percent of the revenue is called an "administrative chargeback."

In the governor's budget proposal, he identified a handful of other revenue sources, including increased taxes on cigars and chewing tobacco and a new sales tax on canned computer software. But, continuing his promise not to raise general income or sales taxes, the governor has placed fund sweeps at the top of his list of potential revenue. Fund sweeps account for about 45 percent of the $306 million he hopes to generate during the upcoming fiscal year.

The plan is to transfer $144 million into the state's main checkbook to pay for education, pensions, health care and construction projects. Carroll says the budget office is deciding which funds are in a position to contribute to that amount, depending on how general revenue grows and how each fund is faring through the fiscal year.

Each transfer also goes through a review process. "We don't just look at the fund transfers at a narrow, one-year snapshot," Carroll says. "We look at the funds' activities for the last several years, and we look at projections over the next several years."

At a February press conference, several Republicans said the governor has swept funds for three years, but now entering election season, he's proposing programs to help the people served by those very funds. "The governor said that inadequate care for Illinois veterans is a disgrace, and I couldn't agree more," said Sen. Larry Bomke, a Springfield Republican. "What he doesn't want you to know is that he has diverted more than $1 million from the Illinois Veterans' Rehabilitation Fund since 2004. If the governor wants to help veterans, he would quit using the rehabilitation fund

as his personal piggy bank."

Carroll says Republicans are simply inserting politics into a budget tactic that's been used by previous governors, including GOP administrations. "They haven't put any ideas on the table, not one time in three years. Instead, they decide to hold press conferences and complain about decisions this governor has made. When you don't open up your own ideas, that criticism falls flat."

But a Senate Democrat also voiced concern about the veterans' fund. Sen. Martin Sandoval of Chicago introduced legislation that would protect the fund from administrative chargebacks, but the measure hadn't made it to the floor for debate by mid-March.

Although previous governors have swept funds, one economist says the transfers served only as emergency measures to deal with cash flow problems. They are not an effective long-term strategy, says J. Fred Giertz, economics professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

He adds that if agency leaders sense a threat of year-end sweeps, then they might enter defense mode. "Agencies are going to try to avoid accumulating a surplus, if they can. Again, the first year you do it, there's probably quite a bit of extra funds around. But once you sweep those out, then the next year you only get the one-year accumulation, not the long-term accumulation."

Carroll says even with the sweeps, all funds have maintained a $2.3 billion balance. That's partially because each fund has a revenue source to replenish the account. And, she says, most funds don't use the entire amount they're allowed by the General Assembly to spend. Further, she says the governor never sweeps the entire surplus, nor does he ever touch the appropriated amount.

Even if funds need an emergency influx of cash, state law guarantees the general revenue fund could help out. Carroll says that's happened fewer than a handful of times.

Some special funds can't be swept. "Federal funds, income-tax checkoff funds, bond funds and other funds where there may be murky constitutional issues — we take them off the table."

One transfer has landed in the Illinois Supreme Court. The Illinois Chamber of Commerce sued the governor's budget office for applying excessive fees on businesses, then using that money for the state's day-to-day operations. The complaint focused on fees for the Workers' Compensation Commission Operations Fund, which were expected to raise about $30 million, according to state Comptroller Daniel Hynes' 2003 Fee Imposition Report.

***Although previous governors have swept funds, one economist says the transfers served only as emergency measures to deal with cash flow problems. They are not an effective long-term strategy.***

The high court's October 2005 ruling says the chamber did not satisfy the burden of proof and the Cook County Circuit Court prematurely ruled in favor of the chamber. The case was sent back to Cook County for more research.

Judy Baar Topinka, three-term state treasurer and leading Republican candidate for governor in the primary, has withheld $235 million in chargebacks and fee transfers because of legal questions, according to her spokesman John Hoffman. "Separate from the policy question of whether it's a good thing or not, she has made the transfers when the General Assembly has passed legislation requiring that."

This spring, Democratic Sen. Terry Link of Vernon Hills got a measure out of his chamber that would prevent fund sweeps of financial credit union organizations, which he says would spare taxpayers from paying the ongoing expenses of a lawsuit. He says the legislation also is a settlement. The governor couldn't sweep that fund anymore, but the financial institutions couldn't try to recapture the money that was swept.

But, Link says, his legislation does not send a message to stop all sweeps. "It's been going on since time. We've all been voting for it. I've voted for sweeps under three governors. It's kind of foolish to let this money lay around here instead of going to the taxpayers again."

Still, opponents say the unpredictable nature of projects covered through the [Leaky] Underground Storage Tank fund might require contractors to use that surplus. Carroll says transfers from the LUST fund totaled $24 million for fiscal years '03 and '04, but nothing has been taken since.

The two years of sweeps, however, have caused cash flow problems for at least one firm. Joseph Truesdale, a professional geologist and engineer with Springfield-based CSD Environmental Services Inc., says the company has been waiting about nine months for reimbursement from the LUST fund. That's down from the previous year. He says the slower cash flow means more credit, which ramps up interest payments and trickles down to delayed payments for subcontractors.

The risk of delay spreads to the nearby property owners. Petroleum contaminants can accumulate near basements and create explosive conditions or pose a risk of a natural gas fire, Truesdale says. "You can't predict when it will occur or under what conditions. That's why due onus should be placed on these particular projects, so that the 1-in-10 chance that an explosion occurs is addressed."

That's also why Rep. David Reis, a Willow Hill Republican, introduced a measure to protect the LUST fund from administrative chargebacks. Republicans and Democrats are co-sponsors, and Democrat Don Harmon of Oak Park picked up the measure in the Senate.

But Harmon says he's frustrated by incomplete information. "I'm having a real difficult time getting actual numbers on either side from the LUST fund activity. There's been a lot of tax dollars collected on behalf of that fund, close to $1 billion [since 1990], if I'm doing my math correctly."

He says it's irresponsible to the taxpayers if the state doesn't use money that's just sitting there, but it's all about striking a balance. Before deciding whether the LUST fund has an idle surplus or needs protection, he says lawmakers need more information.

"It's a case-by-case analysis," he says. "There's no bright line rule." ❑

*Bethany Carson can be reached at capitolbureau@aol.com.*

# BRIEFLY

## NATURAL MEDICINE

### Researchers seek curative powers in rare native plants

That gray birch tree in the woodlands of Illinois may hold a cure for cancer in its bark. So may any one of the more than 1,200 other native species in the state that have not been studied thoroughly for their medicinal compounds.

A new collaboration between the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Chicago Botanic Garden will begin to evaluate isolated plant compounds, such as the anti-melanoma properties in the betulinic acid of the birch, for their potential use in the treatment of such diseases as AIDS, cancer, herpes, tuberculosis and malaria. And any new finding for human use could spur habitat protection for the state's indigenous plants.

"About 300 native plants are at risk," says D. Doel Soejarto, professor of pharmacognosy at UIC and coordinator of the project. "Not all are necessarily endangered or threatened, but in many cases their habitat is."

The Chicago Botanic Garden will identify plants from the state's natural areas and collect seeds. UIC will plant them at campus greenhouses and outdoor plots located at the university's Downers Grove field station.

"This is the goal, sustainability," says Soejarto.

When the team finds a compound that looks promising for a medicine, he says, it will be able to grow the plant in large enough numbers to create a biomass sufficient to study its biology and its chemistry. That process also will provide the opportunity to repopulate plants in the state's natural areas.

"Here in Illinois, we have less than 1 percent of 1 percent of our native habitat left," says David Lentz, vice president of scientific affairs for the botanic garden.

The project is still largely unfunded, however.

"The tragedy is that some of these plants are going to go extinct before we have the chance to discover their phytocompounds," he says.

In the future, Soejarto and Lentz expect, many Illinois plants will join those listed in an international database of medicinal plants.

*Beverley Scobell*

*Photographs by D Doel Soejarto*



**Betula populifolia,** ***the Marshall whitespire birch, is a native Illinois plant that contains betulinic acid, which has shown potential as a cancer cure.***

***Black cohosh,*** **Cimicifuga racemosa,** ***is a native Illinois herb that can alleviate such menopausal symptoms as hot flashes, insomnia and depression.***

**For updated news see the *Illinois Issues* Web site at http://illinoisissues.uis.edu**

## LEGISLATIVE CHECKLIST

*Lawmakers were intending to adjourn the first week of April, nearly two months earlier than the constitutional deadline for the spring session. They'll return home with plenty of time to campaign on issues they debated during the session, especially the way they intend to pay for delayed construction projects and how they plan to cut spending and increase revenue. Here's a sample of other ongoing issues, some of which may come up again next session.*

### HIV

Pregnant women would be advised to take an HIV test and newborns would be required to take it under a proposal introduced by Chicago Democratic Rep. Mary Flowers. Hospital officials would report HIV-positive newborns and pregnant women to the Illinois Department of Public Health. An earlier proposal would have required pregnant women to get tested for HIV, but opponents questioned whether it violated patients' civil rights.

### Stem cells

Expectant mothers would receive information about donating umbilical cord blood under a measure introduced by Rep. Rich Brauer, a Petersburg Republican. The Department of Public Health would create and distribute the information to pregnant women. Umbilical cord blood is useful in the treatment of leukemia and other blood diseases because it's rich in stem cells, such as platelets, and white and red blood cells. And its use is less controversial than embryonic stem cells.

During his February budget address, Gov. Rod Blagojevich announced a $100 million plan for stem cell research over the next five years, funded by closing what he calls corporate tax loopholes.

### Immigrants

A Senate proposal would create English language programs for immigrants. The state Board of Higher Education would oversee the $25 million initiative for community colleges, which serve about 80,000 immigrants throughout the state.

Meanwhile, a proposed driver's certificate for immigrants who don't have social security numbers failed to get out of the House. That measure, introduced by Rep. Edward Acevedo, required documents for the application process, including a passport, a federal tax identification number and a signed agreement to become an American citizen. Under the Chicago Democrat's proposal, the $10 certificate would have looked different from state-issued driver licenses and permits, and would not have qualified as an acceptable identification for official purposes.

Tennessee cancelled a similar initiative after bribery and fraud plagued the program.

### Fuel

At least 10 percent of the gasoline sold in 2008 would contain ethanol under a measure introduced by Sen. Deanna Demuzio. The Carlinville Democrat's proposal includes grants for biodiesel and ethanol plants to research and develop the state's renewable fuel programs.

"It only makes sense if you grow it here, you should make it here," Demuzio said during floor debate. "Our finite sources of petroleum will not be here forever."

Other proposals aimed at encouraging use of renewable fuels were introduced in the House. One would grant a five-year, $20,000 tax credit to stations with at least one biodiesel pump. Another would create a program to encourage stations near interstate highways to carry biodiesel fuel.

### Charitable care

Tax-exempt hospitals would be accountable for charitable care and "fair billing" practices under two proposals supported by Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan.

One measure would require hospitals to better educate patients about payment options. Hospitals would have to post notices about charity care on billing statements and in the admissions and registration areas. Uninsured patients would be put on a payment plan and would be protected from being sued if they can't pay their bills.

A second measure, sponsored by Rep. George Scully Jr., stalled in the House. It would require not-for-profit hospitals to dedicate 8 percent of their operating costs to services for uninsured patients. Hospitals would have to file charity care reports with the attorney general's office under the Flossmoor Democrat's proposal.

Representatives from not-for-profit hospitals argue the measures fail to recognize the community programs and services offered by the hospitals as charitable care. "These bills are dangerous and disappointing," says Republican Sen. Dale Righter of Mattoon, "because it comes after the one entity that truly serves the population."

The Illinois Hospital Association is negotiating with lawmakers and the attorney general's office.

### Ethics

Legislation aimed at reforming the way state government conducts business moved from the Senate to the House, where lawmakers could make additional changes. "There's a lot of cheese out there, and we need to build better mousetraps," says the sponsor, Evanston Democratic Sen. Jeffrey Schoenberg. He's calling for more accountability in such "big ticket items" as contracts and pension fund investments.

Members of Illinois' public pension boards would be prohibited from having financial interests in fund investments and would have to file financial interest statements. Outside consultants couldn't be hired to influence investment decisions in order to receive contingency fees.

Regarding state agency contracts, officials would have to report outreach efforts and post contract advertisements for at least 10 days. Agencies that opt not to choose the lowest bidder would have to provide written explanations.

The public would have access to online reports of all contracts in the past five years with businesses owned by minorities, women or people with disabilities. Contracts of more than $50,000 also would have to be posted online. Those reports would name the contractors, owners, subcontractors, key executives and lobbyists.

The bipartisan ethics proposal also revives lawmakers' push for procurement reform by restricting emergency purchases unless a situation would cause serious disruption to health, safety or the state's revenue.

Other provisions would set a two-year cooling-off period before former agency officials could lobby and would restrict former state employees and their family members from receiving payment from state contractors.

Good government groups such as the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, Citizen Action Illinois and Illinois Common Cause support the legislation.

*Jasmine Washington*

## AUDITORS

# State agency games some job numbers

A state audit has cast some doubt on Gov. Rod Blagojevich's promises to create future Illinois jobs.

Blagojevich says that while he cut 13,000 state positions to save money on "a bloated payroll" last year, he created another 64,000 private sector jobs. And he says his road and school construction plan, dubbed "Jobs for Illinois," can employ another 230,000 people in the years to come.

But Blagojevich's own economic development agency was cited in an audit last month for reporting misleading information on past job gains.

Illinois Auditor General William Holland cited the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for inflating the number of new construction jobs by reporting the projected number rather than actual jobs created. The agency also counted individuals who went through training, which increased performance measures from about 30,000 jobs in fiscal year 2003 to 120,000 in fiscal year 2004.

Calculation errors and a lack of uniform documentation also caused some inaccuracies.

The department says changes in the tracking system led to some glitches, and corrective actions have been taken in response to the audit.

Yet, following media critiques of the governor's announced numbers, officials also argue there's a misconception about the numbers. "People have been comparing apples and oranges," says Andrew Ross, the economic development agency's spokesman.

"In terms of Gov. Blagojevich and Director [Jack] Lavin talking about job creation, those numbers that are being cited are from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics." The numbers used by the agency, he says, are for internal use only. "This is a way for us to internally analyze whether we're getting the best return on our investment during these tight budget times. The kind of analysis that is being done now really was not in place before in prior administrations."

*Bethany Carson*

## GOVERNOR'S BUDGET

# Spend it once, then spend it again

Gov. Rod Blagojevich called for $1.4 billion in new spending next year, then suggested some creative ways to pay for it. And, while he has identified some possible sources of revenue, he's cited the same sources for multiple initiatives.

For example, he proposed paying the $45 million price tag for offering preschool to every 3- and 4-year-old in the state by selling the legally challenged 10th riverboat license. Yet he's also cited the sale of the 10th license as a way to reduce financial liabilities in the state's five pension systems.

Here's a list of some of his other proposed programs with suggested revenue sources, as well as some of the obstacles to implementing them:

**Spending** $90 million for college tuition tax credits for students with good grades.

**Revenue source** Sell some of the state's $3.5 billion assets in student loans. Supporters say the timing couldn't be better. "The student loan market is a very hot one right now," says Donald McNeil, chair of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the state's nonprofit loan agency. "It is the fastest growing segment of the consumer loan industry, and there are a lot of entities out there that are quite anxious to add to their existing portfolios."

**Obstacle** Lawmakers are concerned the immediate influx of cash will rob the state of an ongoing revenue source later. Plus, proposed deals already have shown potential for conflicts of interest among the commission's financial advisers and the companies interested in buying the student loans. Two deals were scratched after the *Chicago Tribune* reported conflicts. Another sticking point is whether handing over the student loans to the private sector would be a good deal for future students.

**Spending** A $400 million increase for elementary education, including $10 million to hire teachers and reduce classroom sizes in kindergarten through third grade.

**Revenue source** Transfer $144 million from dedicated funds to the state's main checkbook and close "corporate loopholes," read taxes on businesses.

**Obstacle** Republicans fear the "fund sweeps" will hurt services in the long run, and that more taxes on businesses could intensify an unfriendly business climate.

**Spending** $45 million for an All Kids health insurance plan that would cover all children in the state.

**Revenue source** Estimated savings of $57 million through switching Medicaid patients to a managed-care system.

**Obstacle** The details have not been worked out. And some of the governor's previous uses of estimated savings as revenue streams have fallen short, including the 2004 state job buyout program that was supposed to save between $25 million and $70 million, but only saved $4.5 million in its first year.

Meanwhile, the governor also proposed borrowing $3.2 billion for school and road construction projects, which relies on unlikely GOP support, as well as the same fund transfers and business taxes tapped for other state expenses.

*Bethany Carson*

## UPDATES

- The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear *Hosty v. Carter*, letting stand a U.S. Appellate Court ruling that rejected a challenge to an administrator's prior review of the student newspaper at Governors State University. (See *Illinois Issues*, September 2005, page 15.)
- A U.S. Senate committee rejected a bipartisan proposal to create an independent office that would oversee congressional ethics and lobbying laws. (See *Illinois Issues*, March, page 26.)
- President George W. Bush signed the renewal of the USA Patriot Act, making key provisions permanent. (See *Illinois Issues*, June 2005, page 14.)

# Lawmakers won't bet on Internet lottery

State lawmakers folded Internet lottery again this spring after complications with the initiative made it not worth the gamble.

At first glance, the proposal had potential to be a multimillion-dollar jackpot for Gov. Rod Blagojevich's education initiatives and a legitimate alternative to his failed keno plan. However, the questionable legality of Internet lottery raises the stakes. If lawmakers approve the measure, the state could face prosecution from the U.S. Department of Justice because federal law bans the use of wire communications to place bets.

Sen. Terry Link, sponsor of the latest plan, believes Internet lottery would be legal under his initiative because it would be restricted to Illinois residents. It could ring in nearly $200 million for education.

Though proposals have been developed in Georgia, Massachusetts and Texas, no state in the country sells lottery tickets on a Web site. Meanwhile, it has become a popular form of gambling in Canada, England and France.

Even if lawmakers deal with the legal issues, the proposal faces other challenges and unanswered questions. Link's measure would allow only consumers with debit cards to purchase Lotto and Mega Millions tickets. But Sen. Rickey Hendon says that by allowing the use of debit cards but not credit cards, more low-income people would buy tickets.

"Why not credit card users? I am concerned because the poor people have the debit cards, and the rich have the gold cards," the Chicago Democrat said during a February committee hearing.

Another issue is security. Under Link's proposal, a company with at least a decade's worth of experience would handle the Web site's payment service. Yet some critics worried only a select number of companies would qualify.

Besides the potential barriers that may prevent the state from cashing in on this venture, some opponents believe the proposal would hurt businesses and expand the state's role in gambling.

Bill Fleischli, executive director of the Illinois Association of Convenience Stores, says Internet lottery would punish business owners who have always sold lottery tickets. "I see no call or no reason for this proposal. We serve the public well and this will hurt our sales," he says. "We haven't asked for anything. Just leave our markets alone."

Gambling opponent Anita Bedell says Internet lottery is especially dangerous because it would expand gambling into people's homes and offices. The 5 percent of people who play the lottery purchase 51 percent of the tickets, says Bedell, who heads Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems. "[Internet lottery] would allow them to buy more, faster and in an instant."

Still, Illinois lawmakers may simply want to see a more developed proposal before they're willing to bet on it. Lottery spokeswoman Courtney Hill says there are a lot of unanswered questions about the logistics, legality and security of selling lottery tickets online, but at the end of the day, it's a legislative decision.

*Jasmine Washington*




UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT SPRINGFIELD
CENTER FOR STATE POLICY AND LEADERSHIP AND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
present

Contaminated without Consent:
How Chemical Pollutants in Air, Food and Water Violate Human Rights

by Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D.
Internationally recognized expert on the environmental links to cancer and reproductive health



An Earth Day Event

April 19, 2006 • Brookens Auditorium • 7:30-9:30 pm

Free and open to the public. Limited Seating. First come, first seated.
Web cast live at http://www.uis.edu/technology/uislive.html

## FEDERAL EFFECTS

# State winners and losers in Bush budget

*A lot can change in a presidential budget proposal before Congress approves it by October 1, the start of a new federal fiscal year. That could prove particularly true for the $2.77 trillion blueprint this year, with a weakened lame-duck president and a Republican-controlled Congress rocked by ties to corruption and worried about midterm elections.*

*Here are a few of the budget proposals that, if unchanged, will affect Illinois:*

### *Winners*

**Highways** $1.2 billion, about a $300 million increase

**Agriculture** $298 million increase for research into such alternative fuels as ethanol and biodiesel

**Construction** $206 million in Army Corps of Engineers projects

### *Losers*

**Farmers** $65 million in cuts to price support programs; $110,000 per farmer reduction for commodity payments

**Communities** $12.9 million grant, split by 40 communities to fight methamphetamine-related crimes, eliminated

**Low-income families** $11 million reduction in home-heating assistance

**Working families** $12 million cut for child care and support services

**Firefighters/first responders** $1.3 million cut for new hires; reductions in funds for equipment

**Airports** $27 million cut in improvement funds

**Rural hospitals** $650,000 annual grants eliminated

**Vocational education** $15.3 million in Perkins grants eliminated

SOURCE: *The office of U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin*

*Photograph courtesy of Southern Illinois University Carbondale*



***Southern Illinois University Carbondale environmental toxicologist Michael Lydy***

# Scientist traces toxic sediment to homes

When a scientist from Southern Illinois University Carbondale started researching the source of toxic sediments in California's waterways, he was in for a surprise. In many areas, the chemicals were traced to residential lawn care, not to agricultural applications.

SIUC environmental toxicologist Michael Lydy and his West Coast colleagues discovered that yard runoff containing pyrethroids, a group of commonly used pesticides, had produced levels toxic to an aquatic organism in nearby streams.

Though the studies on pyrethroids have only been conducted in California so far, Lydy suspects the same problems are occurring in aquatic systems in Illinois and elsewhere.

Their most recent study, conducted in 2005 near Roseville, Calif., found the organism thriving upstream from the town and absent directly downstream.

The small bottom-dwelling creatures, known by the scientific name *Hyalella azteca*, "are like the canary in the mine shaft. If they're doing well, then that's a good barometer that the water is pretty clean. But if they're all dead," says Lydy, "there's something going on in the stream."

Though pyrethroids have not been found to be dangerous to human health in small amounts, they can wreak havoc on ecosystems if leaked into the environment. The chemicals are highly toxic to beneficial insects such as honeybees and, when they enter aquatic systems, can kill fish either directly or by eliminating their food base.

Pyrethroids, synthetic versions of poisonous compounds found in chrysanthemums, are applied to lawns and to farm fields. The difference, Lydy says, is that homeowners tend to use unnecessary amounts of the chemicals. Farmers usually apply just one or two types of pesticide, while the researchers have found a complex mixture of six or seven pyrethroids washing out of residential areas.

A survey of area lawn care supply stores revealed why. Fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides used to be packaged separately. Now many manufacturers mix the three together and sell the blend as an all-purpose value pack; consumers looking for a single treatment are encouraged to apply them all to their yards, whether or not they are needed.

Stores stock the same packaged cocktails for lawn care in the Midwest. Lydy hopes to secure funding for similar studies in Illinois to determine how pervasive pyrethroid pollution is in the state.

While manufacturers may be reluctant to change their products, Lydy says it's easy for people to do their part to prevent water pollution, just by looking more closely at labels and the lawn services they pay for.

"We need to be more informed as homeowners on what we're using and what we really need, and not just do the quick fix," he says.

*Vera Leopold*

## Cloned pigs help medical science

A Duroc sow born at the University of Illinois' South Farms donated cells that were used to create 22 cloned versions of her. Though she is but a memory, her genetic material is the basis of an international effort to map the DNA sequence of swine, led by researchers at the U of I's Urbana-Champaign campus. The two-year, $20 million project will identify individual traits that are expected to help scientists find new cures for human diseases.

"Pigs make a good model for research because they are an animal closer in size to humans, and the organization of their genetic code is similar," says Lawrence Schook, a professor in the Institute for Genomic Biology. Last summer, Schook and Jonathan Beever, a UIUC animal science professor, showed in a side-by-side comparison that there are at least 173 places on pig and human chromosomes where genes match.

Beever, who also is working to find the complete set of genetic instructions that make up the pig, says the advantage of using cloned animals is that results are not clouded by genetic diversity.

Schook is collaborating with scientists at Duke University School of Medicine in Durham, N.C., on two projects that will take advantage of the gene sequencing progress. One is looking for successful therapies for cancerous tumors. The other aims to identify the gene that causes ataxia-telangiectasia, a progressive, degenerative disease that has no cure and usually claims children by their teen years.

In the cancer study, researchers use the map of the human genome completed in 2003 to identify mutated genes causing tumors. They then reconstruct those characteristics in the pig. Researchers expect that when a drug or radiation therapy works to reverse the tumor in the pig, it will rid that tumor in people, too.

*Beverley Scobell*

## Better bacon

Animal studies based on the swine genome will point to individual traits that will produce leaner bacon and tastier chops.

"Sequencing the swine genome is like giving a complete tool box to a carpenter," says Jonathan Beever, a University of Illinois animal science professor. Knowing which genes control which traits — the goal of a UIUC project to map the 3 billion base pairs that make up the swine DNA — gives scientists the tools to produce pigs that have more tender meat and are resistant to disease. Such qualities would help pork producers compete in the global market. The National Pork Board gave $750,000 to the project.

*Beverley Scobell*

*Photograph by L. Brian Stauffer, courtesy of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*




***Jonathan Beever and Lawrence Schook scan human and pig genomes.***

## Forecast for federal help cloudy after tornadoes hit Illinois' capital city

Tornadoes that ripped through central Illinois last month initially were estimated to cost tens of millions of dollars in damages, according to William Burke, the director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Still, it might not have been enough to draw federal assistance.

One criteria for federal assistance to Illinois would be reaching $13 million to $14 million in damages, based on a formula that accounts for population. In addition, the governor must request it.

After touring areas of Springfield that were badly damaged by two tornadoes, Gov. Rod Blagojevich declared a state disaster area in Sangamon County and six other counties: Ford, Greene, Logan, Morgan, Randolph and Scott. The declaration opened the state's Disaster Relief Fund to help hard-hit cities and counties recover up to half of their cleanup costs.

A few days after the storm, the governor said pending an assessment by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, he would seek federal aid that would help cover up to 75 percent of the costs of temporary housing, home repair, medical and dental treatment and funeral services. Without a presidential declaration, the U.S. Small Business Administration could still offer low-interest loans to help businesses recover.

Multiple state buildings and landmarks were damaged in Springfield. Roofs were blown off the Emergency Management Agency's Division of Nuclear Safety and the Secretary of State Police District 3 headquarters. Windows were blown out of other state buildings, including two in the Senate chamber of the state Capitol.

Springfield's City Water, Light and Power station sustained only minor damages, but the cost of restarting the plant after it failed will be more significant, said Springfield Mayor Tim Davlin.

He said an aerial tour with the governor made him realize damage was more extensive than originally thought. "We call ourselves lucky, but it'll take a while to get back to normal."

*Bethany Carson*

## Historic preservation

# Bronzeville theater on endangered list

The Pickford Theater Building on the corner of South Michigan Avenue and 35th Street on Chicago's South Side could be described as unassuming, raising questions about its placement on the 2006 Ten Most Endangered Historic Places list compiled by the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois.

But it's the people connected to the theater who create its historic significance — and the clout behind the situation that threatens it.

The theater, completed in 1912, can claim connections to such famous black artists as filmmaker Oscar Micheaux, musicians Erskine Tate and Captain Walter Dyett, and playwright Theodore Ward. However, the building also is connected to Mayor Richard Daley. The city of Chicago owns the vacant theater, and the mayor's high school, De La Salle Institute, would like to construct a new school building on the property.

"Part of our plan would be to put a new 250-seat small theater in there that could be used by both the school and the community," says Brother Michael Quirk, president of the school. The new theater would be placed in the footprint of the Pickford, and the proscenium and decorative reliefs would be saved and incorporated in the new theater. It would be part of a larger, 30,000-square-foot, multi-story building on that lot and another adjoining lot owned by the school.

The old theater is a one-exit wooden structure that would not be safe for children, says Quirk, who has lived in the neighborhood for 23 years. For more than 20 years, the back part of the building has been a car wash, he says. The institute has served the community since 1889 and has educated four other mayors.

But the Pickford has a history. It came to life in the time of the Great Migration, so-called because thousands of African Americans left the South for better jobs in the North. The Bronzeville neighborhood developed a successful middle class that supported many jazz and blues musicians who played in clubs and for silent movies.

The Pickford showed the films of Micheaux, who was born near Metropolis in southern Illinois to parents who had been slaves. He was the first black man to produce a full-length, eight-reel, all-African-American movie. He also took on controversial subjects. His 1919 film, *Within Our Gates*, depicted a white mob lynching an innocent black sharecropper and his wife. Coming at a time of racial strife, most Chicago theaters banned the movie. The Pickford, according to the Landmarks Preservation Council, is the only surviving theater that showed it.

The neighborhood was hard hit by the Depression of the 1930s, but in the late 1960s, Ward revived the theater, then called the Louis, and made it the home of the South Side Center for the Performing Arts. Over his career, he wrote more than 30 plays.

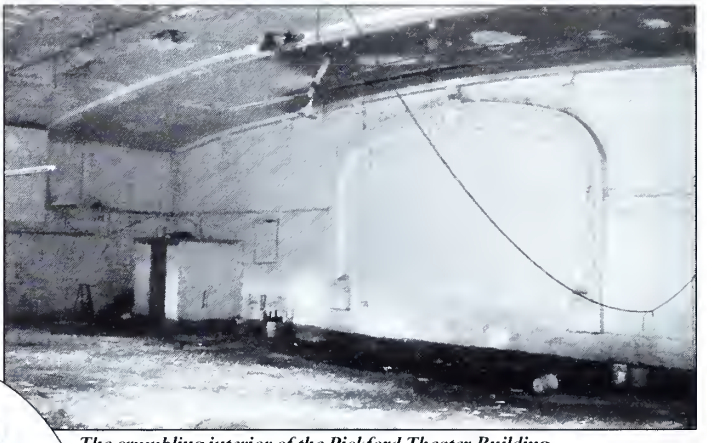
This year is the 20th anniversary of a contest named for Ward sponsored by Columbia College Chicago. The Theodore Ward Prize for African-American Playwrights has been a springboard for many national productions.

Bronzeville is in the midst of a revitalization, building on its history to create a tourist destination. "Had we known that this building was in danger, we would have included it in with the Black Metropolis," says Paula Robinson, president of the Bronzeville Community Development Partnership, referring to the geographic area under consideration as a National Heritage Area on the city's South Side. "The community is just coming to life on this issue."

However, Robinson says the community sees De La Salle as a major asset because of the number of African Americans that graduate and go on to college. But part of the community's economic development strategy is based on saving its historic buildings, so she says it will have to search for a balance.

*Beverley Scobell*

*Photographs courtesy of the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois*



*The crumbling interior of the Pickford Theater Building*



*Oscar Micheaux*




***The humble exterior of the Pickford Theater Building belies the historic significance of the structure, which is located on Chicago's South Side.***

## Endangered historic sites

The following are sites on the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois' 2006 Ten Most Endangered Historic Places list.

**Campana Building**, 901 N. Batavia Ave. in Batavia. The Art Moderne-style cosmetic factory was designed by architect Frank Chase. A recent redevelopment plan calls for removal of glass block and alteration of the facade to put in storefronts.

**Greene County Almshouse**, Township Road 156A in Carrollton. The 1870 Italianate structure is one of the few remaining buildings erected by county governments in Illinois to care for the poor and indigent. The building's porch has collapsed, its windows are missing and it has been scarred by graffiti.

**Montgomery House**, 3120 Old Troy Road in Glen Carbon. The house is one of three pre-Civil War residences still standing in Glen Carbon, a Madison County village about 20 miles northeast of St. Louis. No preservation order protects the 1840 building.

**Mumford House**, 1403 W. Lorado Taft Dr. in Urbana. The oldest surviving building on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's campus is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, but is vacant and maintenance has been deferred.

**Religious structures on Douglas Boulevard**, the North Lawndale neighborhood of Chicago. Two former synagogues, Anshe Kenesseth Israel and Kehilath Jacob, and the former Hebrew Theological College, which date from 1913, 1915 and 1922, respectively, are in disrepair.

**Rock Island Arsenal structures**, Rock Island. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently proposed demolishing the 1869 stone reservoir at the arsenal, and the 1881 bridge is deteriorating.

**Historic corridor**, 300-1015 Spring St. in Galena. The stretch of road in Jo Daviess County has Great River Road national and state scenic byways designations. The Illinois Department of Transportation has proposed a street-widening project that would straighten curves, take down trees and pave over cobblestones.

**Trail of Tears encampment**, 6890 State Rt. 146 in Buncombe. Walls from a Johnson County wayside store along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail remain intact in a barn. The only known surviving structure in Illinois with a connection to the trail, the barn is on land that is expected to go up for sale.

**Westinghouse High School**, 3301 W. Franklin Blvd. in Chicago. A new high school is being built to replace the 1920 building, a former candy factory. The old structure, converted to a high school in the 1960s, is expected to be razed to make way for an athletic field and parking lot.

*Photograph courtesy of the Illinois Valley Cultural Heritage Association*



*Greene County Almshouse*

*Photograph courtesy of the Glen Carbon Historical Preservation Commission*



*Montgomery House in Glen Carbon*

*Photograph courtesy of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.*



*Israel-Samuel A.M.E. Zion Church, 3757 W. Douglas Blvd. in Chicago*

## April will tell whether drought will continue

The warm January temperatures turned the state's normal snow and ice into above-normal rainfall for the month, giving some relief to the dry soils left from last year's drought. But a dry February made this spring's rains crucial to recharging water supplies for the planting and growing seasons. And the heavy mid-March rains fell in parts of the state that weren't as dry.

"On the streamflow map you can still see a bull's-eye of drought in western and northwestern Illinois," Derek Winstanley, chief of the Illinois State Water Survey, says.

In some areas of the state, precipitation by March 1 was as much as 80 percent below normal. For the year from March 2005, Chicago and Rockford had nearly 14 inches less rain than normal. Quincy and Moline were down nearly 15 inches and 19 inches, respectively. Precipitation statewide was more than nine inches down.

Earlier, water survey scientists were somewhat optimistic. Through January, precipitation statewide was above normal in four of the previous seven months. Yet in much of northern and central Illinois, last spring's drought is still evident in low streamflows, depleted soil moisture and low groundwater and reservoir levels.

On average, Illinois gets two inches of rain per month in January and February, three in March and four in April. Those months are "really critical for soil moisture and for water supplies in the reservoirs."

Historically, Illinois experienced one of its driest winters. Further, data show that years with dry March through November periods were more likely to experience dryness during the next growing season. Other indicators point to the probability of a hot and dry summer, Winstanley says.

Meanwhile, Gov. Rod Blagojevich issued a statewide water supply planning and management strategy. Last year's drought highlighted areas where communities face restraints on their water supplies. For instance, the growth of the western Chicago suburbs strains aquifers and surface water sources, and new ethanol plants could create water problems in east central Illinois. Plans are expected to be in place by the end of the year for at least two regions at risk for shortages. *Beverley Scobell*

## STATE PENSIONS
## Does short-term gain add up to long-term trouble?

Gov. Rod Blagojevich says he has funded the state's five pension systems better than any of his GOP predecessors. That's largely because he borrowed $10 billion by issuing bonds his first year in office. But economists say while that maneuver worked in the short term, it could worsen the problem in the long term.

The pension bonds allowed the state to pay its scheduled share of the $2.7 billion liability for fiscal years 2003 and 2004, then invest the remaining $7.3 billion in the retirement systems. Because the bonds were purchased at a low interest rate of 5 percent, the return on that investment was expected to repay the debt, the interest and then some.

Still, the state is only contributing about 60 percent of its obligation to future retirees. (The state even deferred its scheduled payments last fiscal year and this fiscal year.)

But thanks to a 1995 law, the state's scheduled payments to the systems will now start to increase drastically as part of a long-term plan to cover 90 percent of its obligation by 2045. Next year's payment of $1.37 billion jumps more than $430 million over this year's scheduled contribution, which economist J. Fred Giertz says could eat away about half of the state's new revenue.

Giertz is a University of Illinois economics professor and a former trustee for the State Universities Retirement System. He says the future looks bleak for the five systems, which cover the pensions of retired university and state employees, judges, lawmakers and downstate teachers.

"A very, very large chunk of all new revenue would have to be devoted to funding pensions, and that would mean that nothing else would get any kind of increases," he says. "The basic problem is the state simply doesn't have enough revenue in the long term to fund their current activities and also to catch up with the pension funding issue."

Any solution, he says, is politically unpalatable.

"The answer's very simple. It either requires more revenue, which is not a pleasant thing for politicians, or it requires cuts in other programs, which is also not a very pleasant thing for politicians," he says.

"Any kind of overall re-evaluation should include a lot of different options, and not ruling out broad ranges of revenues and not ruling out certain kinds of programs that cannot be touched."

*Bethany Carson*

### THE NUMBERS

*The following reflects what the state would have to have on hand to pay the benefits employees had accumulated at the end of fiscal year 2005. The percentage is what the system owes compared to what it has on hand.*

**Teachers' system** $56 million future liability; 60.8 percent funded
**State Universities system** $20 million future liability; 65.6 percent funded
**State Employees system** $19 million future liability; 54.4 percent funded
**Judges' system** $1.2 million future liability; 45.7 percent funded
**General Assembly system** $213,000 future liability; 39.1 percent funded
**Total** $97 million future liability; 60.3 percent funded

SOURCE: *Illinois Auditor General William Holland*

# WHOSE RIGHTS?

***No matter how the U.S. Supreme Court reacts to* Roe, *other jurisdictions have reframed the abortion debate to focus on the status of the fetus***

Essay by Nanette Elster

At no time in the more than three decades that abortion has been front and center on the political landscape has the issue been more contentious. With the recent appointment of conservative U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Samuel Alito to fill the U.S. Supreme Court vacancy left by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a great deal of concern has arisen about the future of abortion in the United States, and in the state of Illinois as well.

Alito's record on abortion suggests he may not be supportive of a woman's right to choose. His views seem in contrast to those of O'Connor, who is known for seeking a middle ground in abortion-related cases. Alito's position will likely be clarified, as the Court, under the leadership of new Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. has agreed to consider whether a congressional ban of so-called partial-birth, or late-term, abortions is constitutional.

Meanwhile, last month, South Dakota's governor signed a law making it a felony for doctors to perform abortions in that state, and at least 50 new laws restricting abortion were passed in 2005 by legislatures around the nation. What does that mean for the future of abortion in the United States? Is this the harbinger that *Roe v. Wade* is soon to be overturned?

If *Roe*, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortion nationwide, is overturned, each state would become responsible for making its own abortion policy, much the way things were done prior to that decision. Illinois, like a handful of other states, has a so-called trigger law in place that may have the effect of prohibiting abortion if, and when, *Roe* is overturned. The language of the Illinois Compiled Statutes states that if decisions such as *Roe* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* "are ever reversed or modified ... the former policy of this State to prohibit abortions unless necessary for the preservation of the mother's life shall be reinstated."

What about the mother's health? That question would be key for state legislators in deciding how states, including Illinois, should respond if *Roe* is overturned.

Still, central to the contentiousness over abortion is the status of the fetus, which has provided fodder for political disputes for the 30 years since the landmark *Roe* ruling. The Court made clear that, legally, a fetus is not considered to be a person, reasoning that:

"The Constitution does not define





***Some of these actions have gone so far as to imbue a particular status upon the fetus from the earliest stages of development. Essentially, political maneuvers have sought to elevate the status of the fetus to that of personhood.***

'person' in so many words. Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment contains three references to 'person.' The first, in defining 'citizens,' speaks of 'persons born or naturalized in the United States.' The word also appears both in the Due Process Clause and in the Equal Protection Clause. 'Person' is used in other places in the Constitution. ... [I]n nearly all these instances, the use of the word is such that it has application only postnatally. None indicates, with any assurance, that it has any possible pre-natal application."

Yet, outside the confines of the Supreme Court, focus on the status of the fetus has caused a steady shift in abortion policy. In recent years, there have been a number of cases, laws and regulations at the state and federal levels that have sought to refute the notion that legal personhood is not established prenatally. Some of these actions have gone so far as to imbue a particular status upon the fetus from the earliest stages of development. Essentially, political maneuvers have sought to elevate the status of the fetus to that of personhood.

One example of the shift in status of the fetus is the 2002 amendment to the regulations under the State Children's Health Insurance Program. SCHIP was enacted in 1997, in part as a safety net, to provide health coverage for uninsured children up to 19 years of age whose family income exceeds state Medicaid eligibility standards but is still 200 percent of the federal poverty level. The program, however, does not offer benefits for pregnant women, although the child being gestated would have been eligible for SCHIP upon birth.

President George W. Bush's administration sought to remedy this problem swiftly through the rulemaking process by redefining the term "child." The final rule, as published in the *Federal Register,* now defines "child" as "an individual under the age of 19 including the period from conception to birth."

The amendment, however, does little to extend or increase prenatal care benefits for pregnant women because it makes the fetus the legal beneficiary. The rule has been criticized as a political tack toward redefining the status of embryos rather than a means of extending health care access to those in need.

Another recent example of the politicization of the status of the fetus is the enactment of fetal homicide or "feticide" laws. Such laws constitute a dramatic shift from the late 1800s when the Massachusetts court in *Dietrich v. Northampton* found that the fetus did not exist separate from the mother and, therefore, could not sue for injuries sustained *in utero*. Current fetal homicide laws make it a separate crime when an action toward a pregnant woman results in the death of the fetus.

# How Illinois abortion law compares

**43** states, including Illinois, let some medical facilities refuse to perform abortions.

**36** states, including Illinois, prohibit abortion after a certain stage in pregnancy. In most, including Illinois, prohibition begins at viability.

**34** states, including Illinois, have laws requiring some parental involvement — either consent or notification — when a minor seeks an abortion. However, Illinois' 1995 parental notification law has not taken effect. A federal court held the law unenforceable because the Illinois Supreme Court didn't establish rules for a minor to appeal for an exemption.

**32** states mandate counseling prior to abortion. Illinois, despite its law requiring pre-abortion instructions to include information about fetal pain, is not among them.

**31** states, including Illinois, have laws that prohibit so-called partial-birth abortion. Illinois is among those states where the law has not taken effect. The U.S. Supreme Court, in its ruling on a Nebraska law, effectively blocked partial-birth abortion laws, like Illinois', that lack a health exemption. Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court in February agreed to consider whether Congress can adopt a law banning late-term abortion. The case is a Bush Administration appeal of a federal court ruling that declared Congress' 2003 partial-birth abortion ban unconstitutional.

**24** states require a 24-hour waiting period for an abortion after counseling is provided. Illinois is not among them. However, state Rep. Randall Hultgren, a Wheaton Republican, proposed such legislation last year.

**17** states, including Illinois, pay for abortions for Medicaid patients.

**16** states, including Illinois, let only private institutions or those with religious affiliation refuse to provide abortions. In Illinois, the rule applies to private entities.

**4** states, including Illinois, require pre-abortion instructions to include information about a fetus' ability to feel pain. In Illinois, women must be told about the option to give the fetus anesthesia.

SOURCES: *The Alan Guttmacher Institute and the Illinois General Assembly*

As of June 2005, at least 34 states, including Illinois, had some form of fetal homicide law, and application of these statutes is being put to the test in a number of jurisdictions. At least 15 of these state laws, including Illinois', apply to the earliest stages of pregnancy. In Illinois, an "unborn child" is defined as "any individual of the human species from fertilization and implantation until birth." This is the definition used in the 2004 federal Unborn Victims of Violence Act.

In addition, a number of actions have also been brought in state courts, which would redefine the status of an embryo or fetus. Early last year, an Illinois circuit court judge in Cook County determined that a couple could maintain a wrongful death action against a fertility clinic for destruction of the couple's frozen embryos. The judge asserted that "a pre-embryo is a 'human being' ... whether or not it is implanted in its mother's womb." The decision added fuel to the debate on when life begins and was the impetus for a range of predictions regarding the future of abortion in the state of Illinois.

The amendments to SCHIP, the upsurge in fetal homicide laws and the wrongful death action in Cook County regarding destroyed frozen embryos are only a few significant examples of the ways in which politics are shaping the status of the fetus. That is significant in determining what, if any, legal rights must be afforded the fetus, which has always been at the crux of the abortion debate. If the status of the fetus is elevated — through law, policy or politics — to that of person, what, if any, effect does that have on the status of women, particularly with respect to women's choices regarding reproduction?

Pregnancy is a reproductive role unique to women, and the Supreme Court in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* stated:

"The mother who carries a child to full term is subject to anxieties, to physical constraints, to pain that only she must bear. That these sacrifices have from the beginning of the human race been endured by woman with a pride that ennobles her in the eyes of others and gives to the infant a bond of love cannot alone be grounds for the State to insist she make the sacrifice. Her suffering is too intimate and personal for the State to insist, without more, upon its own vision of the woman's role, however dominant that vision has been in the course of our history and our culture. The destiny of the woman must be shaped to a large extent on her own conception of her spiritual imperatives and her place in society."

This unique position of pregnant women creates a major challenge in resolving the abortion debate. But it was with the 1992 *Casey* decision that the narrowing of a woman's right to choose to have an abortion began. *Casey* — stemming from a challenge to the Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act, which included such provisions as spousal consent — allows states to impose restrictions on abortions so long as such restrictions are not "unduly burdensome." Since that ruling, a range of restrictions have been implemented by the vast majority of states, including such requirements as parental notification, information regarding fetal pain and waiting periods.

The current climate engenders this question: Will the rights of the unborn take precedence over the rights of women? This is a question without an easy answer and one that likely will continue to permeate our state and national politics. Consensus seems unlikely as Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun recognized at the very outset of the *Roe* decision.

"One's philosophy, one's experiences, one's exposure to the raw edges of human existence, one's religious training, one's attitudes toward life and family and their values, and the moral standards one establishes and seeks to observe, are all likely to influence and to color one's thinking and conclusions about abortion."

But in recent years there have been a number of cases, laws and regulations at both the state and federal levels that have sought to refute the notion that legal personhood is not established prenatally. These measures have had an impact on liberty, a right the court sought to protect in *Roe*. If we reframe the debate to focus on liberty rather than abortion, or even reproduction, then perhaps resolution or compromise would be possible. ❑

### *States adopt new abortion laws*

Of the nearly 200 abortion restrictions adopted by states since 2000, 52 were adopted last year, according to The Alan Guttmacher Institute, a New York- and Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that researches reproductive health issues.

None of the new restrictions were adopted in Illinois. However, last year, South Dakota joined Illinois as one of four states that have laws on the books to immediately criminalize abortion if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. The only other states with such measures are Kentucky and Louisiana.

And, in March, South Dakota's governor signed into law the first post-*Roe* measure making it a felony for a doctor to perform an abortion unless the procedure can save a woman's life. The action was widely expected to spur court challenge.

Seven states — Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Oklahoma and South Dakota — enacted laws in 2005 mandating new counseling measures.

Meanwhile, not many states expanded abortion rights; however, Montana became one of 15 states to create protected zones around abortion clinic entrances. And abortion rights advocates applauded Gov. Rod Blagojevich's order requiring pharmacists to dispense emergency contraceptives.

Most of the abortion-related measures now under consideration by the Illinois legislature center on Blagojevich's order requiring pharmacists to fill prescriptions for Plan B, the so-called morning-after pill. Several bills are under consideration that would allow pharmacists to refuse to dispense emergency contraceptives for reasons of conscience.

*The Editors*

*Nanette Elster is vice president of Spence & Elster, P.C., a Chicago-based firm devoted to infertility law. As an adjunct instructor, she teaches courses in bioethics, genetics and the law, public health law, and women's health and sexuality at the University of Illinois at Chicago's School of Public Health and at DePaul University in Chicago's Law School and School for New Learning.*

# Deeper scars

## Illinois soldiers face physical dangers in Iraq and Afghanistan. But when they come home, some encounter the aftermath of war within themselves

by Bethany Carson

The first time Staff Sgt. David Winkel returned from a year in Iraq, he was 30 pounds lighter and used to sleeping a handful of hours, a gun by his side.

The 23-year-old says he re-enlisted in the U.S. Army because he loves the feeling of being a part of something that makes a difference. But coming home to Champaign after that first tour of duty threw him into a period of adjustment. He would wake up two or three times a night searching for his weapon. And he found it difficult to reconnect with some of his family and friends.

Now preparing for his fourth tour in Iraq, he says he has learned to anticipate the jolt that comes with each transition from active duty to civilian life.

Others haven't been so lucky.

In December, about 196,000 active U.S. troops were serving in Iraq and Kuwait, and another 19,000 were posted in Afghanistan, according to the U.S. Department of Defense. Among those soldiers were nearly 1,400 Illinois National Guard members and reservists, according to the Illinois Department of Military Affairs. But some who returned home this year after the Iraqi elections weren't prepared for the challenges they faced on the home front. Some had to struggle harder than Winkel to make the transition to civilian life.

Veterans of previous wars struggled with this transition, too. But the psychological, physical and economic challenges facing the nation's newest veterans have been getting attention from politicians in Washington, D.C. and Springfield.

Early this year, Winkel, the son of state Sen. Rick Winkel of Champaign, visited his father at the state Capitol, where the legislature was trying to address some veterans' needs in its spring session. Illinois lawmakers introduced nearly two dozen measures designed to help veterans financially, at least in small ways, by granting property tax exemptions, fishing license waivers and scholarships for their children.

In addition, Gov. Rod Blagojevich asked lawmakers to support a $10 million program to help Illinois veterans get health care. In the first phase of the proposed Veterans Care program, the state would assist 7,000 former soldiers, or 10 percent of Illinois veterans who are younger than 65 and lack health insurance, says Januari Smith, spokeswoman for the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs. She says the program could be expanded to offer universal health care to veterans.

The governor also proposed boosting state spending on homes for aging and disabled veterans, and he's tapping 25 new services officers to help veterans apply for state and federal benefits.

Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn, meanwhile, has implemented a plan to fund services for post-traumatic stress disorder. His office expects the scratch-off lottery game, called Veterans Cash, to raise an estimated $3 million annually for the state veterans' agency.

Eric Schuller, Quinn's senior policy adviser, says the money also will help homeless veterans, which account for one-third of the state's homeless population. He says the residual effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, including homelessness, are state problems that can be prevented.

Dr. Ronald Davidson of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Illinois at Chicago supports the lieutenant governor's proposal, but says the trick in dealing with the disorder is to prepare for it ahead of time. "The best way to 'prevent' or deal with post-traumatic stress disorder is through education, to increase the education troops and their families get before they leave and certainly when they come back."

Furthermore, Davidson says, more veterans could be helped if more public funds were provided to private and non-profit organizations. "You need to help get those resources and those funds out to community mental health clinics to make it easier for people to get help. Buy some more doctors' time; buy some more psychologists' time to work with military families," he says. "There are things where you can throw money at a problem, and I think this is one of them, if you target the money carefully."

Nevertheless, the primary responsibility for helping veterans falls to the federal government through its Department of Veterans Affairs. That agency operates some three-dozen medical centers and clinics for treatment of returning soldiers,

including those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

In 2003, the agency covered more than $1.8 billion in health care, pension and education costs for Illinois veterans. Still, Illinois' disabled veterans received some of the lowest average disability payments in the nation — about $7,000 each. U.S. Sen. Barack Obama, a Chicago Democrat, has pushed to get an increase. At the same time, though, the White House has proposed trimming veterans' services over the next five years, meaning benefits could actually decline for middle-income veterans.

Yet, many returning soldiers face the challenge of just finding a job. And often, these financial strains dwarf other problems, such as psychological stress, according to Davidson of UIC.

In fact, returning veterans are re-entering a less-than-booming economy, which is why some enlisted in the first place. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, veterans between ages 20 and 24 had an unemployment rate of more than 15 percent in July 2005. That's nearly double the rate for their cohorts who were not in the military.

Still, the psychological impact of war can be profound. And even physical injuries can carry deeper scars, as one New York photographer found in her research on veterans who were wounded in Iraq. "I don't see physical wounds. I see the psychological wounds," says Nina Berman, author of *Purple Hearts: Back from Iraq*, which is the basis of an exhibit that will be at the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum in Chicago until May.

Berman says she wants to show a more realistic picture of the war than what is seen through the media. "You saw the weaponry of war, but you didn't see what those weapons did," she says.

Through her work, she also saw the impact of the war spread to families, who often had a hard time understanding why their son or daughter, who was happy before, had fallen into depression.

"There's a huge ripple effect of the aftermath of war," Berman says. "It's not just on the combatants. It's on the whole community."

The cause stems in part from the nature of this war. The National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder says in addition to being away from their families, some of the main stressors affecting men and women serving in Iraq are the lack of combat lines and the prevalence of ambiguous threats. They're constantly on guard and at risk of mistaking a friend or a foe.

Vietnam veteran Donald Smithenry knows the feeling. "You don't know who the enemy is because you're associated with all of them. In Vietnam, you would talk to them during the day and fight them at night."

Smithenry, who is 59, lives in Springfield and serves as the state adjutant and quartermaster for the Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars. He recalls coming home from Vietnam on his 21st birthday to little welcome.

"You just came home from the war into civilian life, and you're supposed to adjust in one day," he says. When he couldn't find an outlet for his emotions, he coped in the only way he knew how. "I tried to drown [my emotions] with alcohol." He tried to survive that way for a decade, only seeking help after the shock of a divorce.

Winkel says post-traumatic stress disorder is still a reality for many of his fellow soldiers. So is depression, alcoholism and an inability to relate to loved ones.

"We have a lot of soldiers that started their divorce papers in Iraq," he says. "It's a big issue."

The U.S. military tries to help. In addition to coordinating a Seamless Transition program, the Department of Defense requires soldiers to spend some time in "reintegration training," learning how to cope if their children don't recognize them or if they can't relate to their spouses.

While government and private organizations try to reach out to veterans, some returning soldiers can't or don't want to be reached. Why soldiers don't seek help is something that concerns Davidson. He directs the UIC mental health policy program and says there's a major disincentive for soldiers to ask for help.

The federal government documented one reason in a 2002 Department of

*Photograph by Nina Berman/Redux, copyright Nina Berman 2003*



***Private First Class Alan Jermaine Lewis, a 22-year-old soldier who lost both his legs in a land mine explosion in Iraq, is pictured in his home in Milwaukee. Lewis is among the wounded soldiers pictured in Nina Berman's book* Purple Hearts: Back from Iraq.**

*Of the 705 veterans who have enrolled in the Illiana Health Care System since September 11, 2001, about half are showing signs of post-traumatic stress disorder.*

## Legislation may help vets

Veterans were on the minds of state lawmakers this spring, but only a few measures intended to help returning soldiers advanced through the legislative process.

State Senate Minority Leader Frank Watson, a Greenville Republican, got a bill out of his chamber that would establish a revenue stream to support the troops. The purchase of a special Iraqi Freedom license plate that says, "Support our Troops," would raise $25 for the Illinois Veterans Assistance Fund. Another $25 would be raised through each renewal of the special plates. In turn, the state would provide financial aid to children of veterans who were injured or killed in the line of duty.

Another measure would have punished people for fraudulently claiming they were a veteran to get one of the special license plates. The measure was stuck in the legislative process.

A measure that would punish people who wear a Purple Heart medal if it was awarded to someone else, even a relative, won approval in the House.

Other measures were intended to give financial assistance to soldiers who are buying a home, paying property taxes or preparing to send their children to college. One would waive a fishing and camping license fee.

*Bethany Carson*

Defense health survey of soldiers. An entire chapter is dedicated to mental health issues. Slightly more than 5 percent of nearly 13,000 survey participants reported seriously considering suicide the previous year. Davidson says those numbers have likely increased since the rise of the insurgency in Iraq. The most critical finding, however, is that up to 20 percent of military personnel in each service indicated they had felt the need for counseling in the year before the survey, but more than half of them reported they believed asking for mental health services would negatively impact their military careers.

The Department of Defense report acknowledged the problem. "It is quite possible that the fear of negative career consequences is preventing some service members from seeking mental health counseling. In recent years, the military has taken steps to reduce the stigma associated with receiving mental health care." A few sentences later, the report added, "Despite these efforts, it appears that more assurance may be needed to combat the widely held concerns that seeking help will damage a career."

Davidson says high-stress situations penetrate even the healthiest individuals. When they don't ask for help, there's a systemic problem. "It's still a macho military culture. There's a hidden army of troops out there who may be, and probably are, experiencing enormous emotional problems, and they admit that they're afraid to even ask for help because it could hurt their military careers," he says. "The problem's not with the troops. The problem is with the Pentagon, the military. The culture is not changing."

In fact, the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder says a 2004 study indicates about 80 percent of the Iraq and Afghanistan soldiers who had a serious mental health disorder acknowledged they had a problem, but only about one-fourth of them reported receiving formal mental health care.

Even if the stigma dissolved, Davidson says, a second barrier to seeking mental health services is location. "If you're within 50 miles of Chicago, you're in luck because the [federal] Veterans Affairs has some wonderful services. You get south of I-80, and you can shake a stick at the number of doctors you can find."

That's where Jill DeBord comes in. She is a licensed clinical social worker who coordinates care for veterans who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan. She works at the federal veteran department's Illiana Health Care System in Danville, one of 22 outpatient clinics in the state. As part of a national initiative, she screens as many soldiers as possible for post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, alcohol abuse or infectious diseases specific to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Of the 705 veterans who have enrolled in the Illiana Health Care System since September 11, 2001, about half are showing signs of post-traumatic stress disorder. That doesn't mean they've been diagnosed with the condition, she says, but it does indicate a potential need for treatment.

Many of these veterans are getting treatment, but many more don't know they're eligible. For up to two years after discharge, a veteran can get free health care through Veterans Affairs if their condition is in any way connected to combat. "If they enroll within the two years, they'll be grandfathered into the system, and they can continue to receive care even if they are over the income cap," DeBord says. Noncombat veterans must make co-payments or pay minimal fees for health care services if they are single and make more than $25,000 or married and make more than $30,000.

To spread the word, she has sent out 3,500 "welcome home" packages from the Department of Defense that detail services. She says her biggest concern, however, is that there won't be enough clinicians to specialize in treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder.

"It may seem like it's hitting us really hard now, but this is just a tip of the iceberg. We're going to be dealing with this for a long time to come."

Photographer Berman says the public also needs to adjust its lens to focus on larger social problems that affect everybody, including the economy and access to health care.

"A lot of issues that can be seen through veterans can become more clear," she says, "because you feel as though they should have a higher standing somehow." ❑

# Weekends into weeks

## More grandparents are caring for their grandchildren, but many still don't realize the value of legal custody until they encounter challenges

by Jasmine Washington

Cheryl Harvey has been taking care of her seven grandsons since they were born. The 60-year-old Chicagoan is the only parent Corwin, Cameron, Christian, Cole, Kimani, Malik and Branden have known. The oldest is 18 and preparing for college. The youngest is 21 months and showing symptoms of the terrible twos.

While enduring her daughter's choice of cocaine over the children, Harvey has had to face other hardships to keep her family together. But seven years ago, she decided to adopt. "It was just such a burden lifted off me," she says. "I didn't want these children in the system. They are my legacy, and I want [it] to keep on living."

Nationwide, 2.4 million grandparents were raising their grandchildren, according to the 2000 U.S. Census, the first official tally of grandparents who are primary caretakers of their kids' kids. Further, the Census Bureau reported that the number of children who are being raised by their grandparents without a parent present in the household increased in the 1990s.

The federal bureau attributes these so-called skipped-generation households to teen pregnancy and mental illness, among other social problems. The Illinois Department on Aging cites such factors as alcohol or drug abuse, incarceration or unemployment.



*Chicagoan Cheryl Harvey is pictured with five of her grandsons. She has raised the boys since birth. In Illinois, at least 258,000 grandparents are primary caretakers, sometimes, according to the Illinois Department on Aging, because parents have drug problems or are out of work.*

At least 258,000 Illinois grandparents are primary caretakers. Nearly half of them have borne that responsibility for more than five years. And more than a quarter run skipped-generation households. Yet most of these grandparent caretakers don't have legal documentation to prove it.

A grandparent advocate says cost is one of the reasons grandparents don't turn to the legal system. Another is pride. "They don't want to go to court to prove their child is an unfit parent," says Jaia Peterson Lent, director of public policy and outreach for the Washington, D.C.-based Generations United. "Often times [grandparents] hope their child will return to get their child."

Still, most grandparents who take in grandchildren do so because they're family. Linette Kinchen, an adoptive grandparent and the executive

***Some state lawmakers have begun to recognize the choices these grandparents make — and the challenges that go with those choices. This spring, nine legislative proposals were aimed at addressing these issues.***

director and founder of the Grandfamilies Program of Chicago, says many are reluctant to go through the legal process. They feel they shouldn't have to adopt "because it's their blood."

Some state lawmakers have begun to recognize the choices these grandparents make — and the challenges that go with those choices. This spring, nine legislative proposals were aimed at addressing these issues. Measures were introduced to create a state program specifically for older caretakers and to raise foster care payments.

State Sen. Mattie Hunter, a Chicago Democrat, pushed two measures aimed at what she calls an "underserved population." One would have allowed children to be covered by their grandparents' insurance. Another would have provided awareness training for judges. Both measures stalled this spring, but Hunter says she'll try again because they would provide relief for older caretakers.

In fact, most don't ask for much. Though Harvey's daughter doesn't participate in her sons' lives, the grandmother says she isn't capable of dishing out hard love to the boys' mother. "I never asked her to take care of them or condemn her for having them. I thank her because it made me stronger," she says. "I've been there, done that, and I know I can do it. We're not victims anymore, we're survivors."

But when a weekend turns into weeks, grandparents encounter problems. Enrolling children in school or giving medical consent is made more difficult because, without proper paperwork, grandparents have no legal rights. And most are unaware of their legal options until they confront this reality.

Harvey says she was advised by a caseworker at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services not to adopt. "I was told it was better just to have them. But at that time, what did I know?" A few years later, a caseworker with Universal Family Connections and a court advocate in Cook County helped her through the stressful adoption process.

Most grandparents aren't even aware they can get help in sorting through their options. Groups such as the Guardianship Assistance Desk in Chicago and the Parent Place in Springfield can provide legal advocates and assistance to grandparents who can't afford lawyers.

Christi Clifton, the court advocate for the Parent Place, says she deals mostly with relative caretakers who want legal guardianship. This status grants them power to make all decisions and protects the children if the unstable parent returns. "The security that legal guardianship offers is worth more than its weight in gold."

She sees more clients in August and September, when grandparents realize a few months too late that their summer visitors have become permanent guests and need to be registered for the new school year.

While awareness of services is low, once grandparents walk in the door of a state agency, they become connected to an entire network of assistance. Barb Schwartz, coordinator of the Department on Aging's Grandparents Raising Grandchildren program, says her agency relies on these word-of-mouth referrals because the hidden population of grandparents raising grandchildren is "falling through the cracks."

Harvey says she avoided falling through the cracks by making sure the Springfield and Chicago offices of Children and Family Services were on the same page. The key, she says, is keeping detailed documentation. "Everything leads back to paper. If you don't have some type of paper trail, then [grandparents] lose out on a lot of resources for their [grand]children."

Schwartz believes the state should launch an advertising campaign and hire more caseworkers to deal with grandparents. But, she notes, the state's social service agencies weren't designed with relative caretakers in mind.

She also suggests all counties appoint court advocates to help grandparents adopt or become legal guardians. Policies differ throughout the state. Some counties require an attorney, which can be costly for already financially strapped grandparents.

A Department of Children and Family Services program does provide some funds for legal assistance. A grandparent can receive up to $500 to pay court fees through the Extended Family Support Program. There also is help through the nonprofit Area Agencies on Aging. However, some of their funding is tied to a federal requirement that grandparents be age 60 or older. The catch is that fewer than a third of Illinois grandparents who are raising their grandchildren meet this age requirement. "Just because the services are out there doesn't mean [everyone] qualifies."

Schwartz says legislators are making moves in the right direction. "We are getting there, but we have to pick up the speed. They need to look at the obstacles and needs and make services more accessible and effective."

Harvey says being a parent to seven boys is exhausting, but it gives her energy and pleasure. "My job is, keep them warm, fed, loved and housed."

Like all grandparents, she wants her boys to grow into educated young men. Her oldest plans to attend college this fall with his half-brother who lives in Skokie. A proposal introduced by state Rep. Lovana Jones might make this dream a reality. The Chicago Democrat's measure would create a $1,000 tuition grant for high school seniors who have a C average and live with their grandparents.

Though Harvey's daughter has not lived up to her potential, her grandsons have a chance. And that, says Harvey, is what matters to her.

Schwartz agrees. "Anybody with children knows there are no guarantees. There are no textbooks," she says. "They make choices that [grandparents] have no control over. [And] those grandparents have to be there to pick up the pieces from their choices." ❑

# Hard-working class

## The struggle to get by drives up the numbers of Latinos who live in the suburban Chicago region

by Jennifer Halperin
Photographs by Javier Hernández

The Mexican towns in which Rafael and Raquel Rodriguez grew up sit only 30 miles apart, in the western Pacific state of Jalisco. But the couple didn't meet until each had moved to a new country, new climate and entirely new way of life more than 1,500 miles to the northeast. After arriving in Chicago separately, they were introduced by friends 12 years ago, and have settled in the western suburb of Oak Park to raise their three young children.

The location gives Rafael easy access to his job managing maintenance for a building in the community, and allows the couple to send their three children to high-performing public schools. To afford this, they must supplement their income with Raquel's babysitting jobs. Other extended family members, though, must share housing in neighboring Cicero.

The Rodriguez family personifies the trend of Latinos who are moving from the city of Chicago — or, more recently, moving directly from their native countries — to the suburbs, where it is often easier to make ends meet.

According to *The State of Latino Chicago: This Is Home Now*, a study by the University of Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies, Latinos make up more than 20 percent of metropolitan Chicago's residents. That statistic was based on figures from the 2004 American Community Survey. Fourteen years earlier, 1990 U.S. Census Bureau figures showed they comprised only 12 percent of the region's residents.

More than half of the region's 1.6 million Latinos live outside of the city's border. Further, the Latino population is growing most quickly in the suburbs. In 2000, 651,000 Latinos lived in the suburbs; by 2004, that number had ballooned to 862,000, the study found.

"In some cases, it's just an affordability issue," says Juanita Irizarry, executive director of Latinos United, a nonprofit Chicago-area group whose original mission of housing advocacy and fair housing has been expanded recently to include other social issues. "As areas of the city have gentrified, people have been squeezed out."

Rafael Rodriguez has seen this economics-driven migration occur among fellow Latinos.

*Photographs courtesy of the University of Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies*




***The number of Latino-owned businesses in Illinois grew by 44 percent between 1997 and 2002. The 40,000 Latino-owned businesses in the state had more than $7.5 billion revenues.***

"The properties' [prices] went up so high, people have had to move farther out — Joliet, Bolingbrook. Many of them work in the kind of jobs — landscaping, construction — that they can do from wherever."

Anecdotal evidence and academic studies alike have found that this growing suburban Latino population earns less, often works harder and, as a demographic group, has to make more accommodations to live affordably than the population as a whole.

Latino incomes in the Chicago area — an average of $21,495 in 2003 — are more than 60 percent lower than non-Latino whites. And, according to the Notre Dame study, the average value of Latino-owned homes is $150,000 as compared to $205,000 for non-Latino whites.

One of the factors driving the economic disparities is that Latinos face an occupational divide, fueled by industrial changes. The availability of manufacturing work has declined, while high-technology jobs that require greater education are on the rise, according to a study by the Pew Hispanic Center. *The Occupational Status and Mobility of Hispanics* showed that whites were more than twice as likely as Latinos to be employed in professional jobs in 2000.

But this gap could be narrowed if a greater number of higher paying, professional jobs were open to Latinos, and training programs to deal with such issues as the language barrier could make that happen, advocates say.

"We've got some people with health care experience where they came from working in the service industry here because of language," says Donald Peloquin, the mayor of south suburban Blue Island, where nearly 40 percent of the population is Latino. "We've got needs in health care for more employees. These are people who don't need to retrain themselves professionally, but we're missing the opportunity to have them work in health care because of the language problem.

"I've started talking to community colleges about how we need to work with people who live right here and could be filling hospital jobs who only need language skills."

In addition, locating businesses, or other potential employers, near large suburban Latino populations would help address the gap.




***Latinos are "the most disadvantaged segment of population in terms of the workers' earnings and per capita income," according to* The State of Latino Chicago. *But, the report by the Institute for Latino Studies notes when household income levels are compared, Latinos appear better off.***

Maria Mastro, an agency nurse from Lake Forest who has worked in several suburban hospitals, says that since her own days of struggling with English, she has seen improvements in the way municipalities help Latinos, including providing bilingual education and clinics to bring children up to date on immunizations. But moves to link potential employees to understaffed hospitals, for example, have been far slower.

"I don't think that there's a push" to recruit Latinos into the nursing field, says Mastro, who moved with her family as a child from Puerto Rico to Chicago in 1962. Meanwhile, communities are not working with area colleges to help expand in-demand nursing programs, making for long waiting lists for nursing programs at such local northwest suburban schools as Oakton Community College in Des Plaines and William Rainey Harper College in Palatine.

Irizarry calls ties to an available pool of talent "smart growth," a concept that Latinos United advocates. "People wouldn't have to be driving all across the suburbs for their jobs, or coming from far-out suburbs to the city, like I see them do."

As economic pressures push Latinos into new suburban areas, social pressures can make their integration less than smooth, in part because of the strategies used to stretch income. For instance, extended families or even multiple families living together, the Notre Dame study noted, "is especially important for the economic security of Chicago-area Latinos."

On average, Latinos' earnings are much lower than that of non-Latino whites and blacks. The study found that almost a quarter of Latino households have three or more wage earners as compared to 15 percent of non-Latino white households. Those working may include adolescent and adult children, an extended family member, or a non-relative. "Indeed, 21 percent of Latino workers live in households in which they either are not a member of the family or are a relative but not a member of the nuclear family of the householder. This compares to 8 percent of non-Latino workers."

Irizarry recognizes the cultural differences that come with a new population can cause confusion and anxiety among established residents.

"Families get frustrated when schools



***More than half of the Latinos living in the Chicagoland area reside in owner occupied homes, and, since 1990, the number of Latino-owned residences has grown from 77,000 to more than 200,000. Despite this, Latinos' incomes tend to be lower than those for other demographic groups.***

feel more crowded," she says. "They wonder, 'Are those families contributing property taxes?' There can be a real lack of understanding, not only based on language, but on culture."

Peloquin says, "[T]here are cultural differences — a lot of people from Mexico have a fear of the government, the establishment, the police department. Where they come from, they might not be used to paying taxes.

"I've had complaints of people coming and going from homes [with Latino residents] all hours of the day — the neighbors thought it was gangs or drug-related. Turned out, there were different people living there, and they were working in shifts. Some would come home late at night, and others were leaving. They were coming and going, but it wasn't for the reason the neighbors thought. They were trying to make a living."

During recent decades, shifting demographics have caused friction within communities. "We've seen selective enforcement of occupancy standards and TIF designations," Irizarry says. "Cicero says you could only have one person per bedroom, but they grandfathered in everyone who already lived there before the Latinos moved in. We all know people who grew up three kids to a bedroom; some suburbs have just now decided these standards are important."

In the 1990s, the U.S. Department of Justice sued Cicero and two other Chicago suburbs, Waukegan and Addison, for housing discrimination. As a result, restrictive housing laws were tossed out in Waukegan and Cicero, while Addison — challenged over an economic development program that called for demolition of Latino-occupied housing — agreed to help build affordable homes, provide parks and a community center, and pay for relocation costs of the residents who were displaced.

Advocates say policy shifts could make communities more accessible to single-family households, who may now need a third working adult's income or multiple jobs to get by.

Irizarry says, "Affordability in the suburbs doesn't have to mean subsidized — maybe a change in zoning so developers can build smaller, single-family homes, or allow rentals. Are your occupancy standards culturally defined, or are they based on safety?"

Irizarry points to Peloquin, who has been mayor of Blue Island for 22 years, as a public official who has tried to be proactive regarding shifting demographics.

"There's no perfect answer," Peloquin says. "You can't think that Plan A will take care of it all. Diversity can be a plus or a minus. But you've got to try to understand what everyone's thinking. There are differences. [Latinos] do bring a positive aspect to the community. They're close to family. They want to regentrify neighborhoods, fix up their property. They've got [a] good work ethic. They're a reliable, solid and dependable labor force."

Statistics back up his assessment. According to the Notre Dame report, Latino-owned business grew 44 percent between 1997 and 2002. Between 2000 and 2003, while the number of jobs available in the six-county metropolitan region edged up by 41,000, jobs held by Latinos climbed by 105,000. And in that three-year period, the number of homes owned by Latinos rose by 41,000, accounting for 46 percent of the increase in owner occupied homes.

"We are contributors," says Sylvia Puente, director of the Metropolitan Chicago Initiative at the Institute for Latino Studies. (She's also a member of the *Illinois Issues* advisory board.) "We are an economic force within the region. Virtually every region that has a large population has a thriving Latino business strip.

"We must ensure the Latino perspective is considered, whether that's on health care, transportation, housing," she says. "We must make sure that those Latino voices are there, to ensure informed decision-making. This is the new reality."

Failure to plan ahead or respond to changing demographics is shortsighted, says Peloquin. As the Notre Dame study pointed out: "With or without documentation, more than 20,000 new Latino immigrants, primarily from Mexico, take up residence in metropolitan Chicago each year."

Over the next decade, many Latinos will be making the same journey as the Rodriguezes. If an estimate quoted in the study is correct, by 2030, a third of the region's population will be Latino. ❑

*Jennifer Halperin, a former Statehouse bureau chief for* Illinois Issues, *is an Oak Park-based freelance writer.*

# BIRDS, BATS AND BUGS

## *Nature offers plenty of specialties for those who want to study its creatures*

### FLIGHT PATTERNS

***Ornithologist keeps count through avian arithmetic***

by Chris Young

Wave after wave of migrating geese passing overhead suggest the onset of spring, though frigid morning air and a skin of ice on the lake say otherwise.

With their calls, which sound like cynical laughs, a flock of greater white-fronted geese seems to mock the people watching them from the ground. But for H. David Bohlen, assistant curator of zoology at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield, the study and protection of Illinois birds is serious business.

For the past 35 years, Bohlen has spent part of nearly every day in the field counting and studying birds "unless I was sick or on an airplane going somewhere." He has recorded 354 species of birds in Sangamon County alone, and his *The Birds of Illinois*, which was published by Indiana University Press in 1989, is a reference found in the library of nearly every experienced Illinois birder. The book covers more than 400 species, detailing their abundance, whether they reside in Illinois or pass through, and when they arrive and depart.

Just after sunrise on a late February morning, Bohlen trains his spotting scope on thousands of snow geese, greater white-fronted geese, northern pintails, canvasbacks, Bonaparte's gulls and the occasional bald eagle. They are just a few of the species Bohlen encounters at Lake Springfield, where he begins each day. While most people associate migration with April and May, when the songbirds move north, the ageless trek north already is under way for some species, especially waterfowl.

*Photograph by Chris Young*



***H. David Bohlen chronicles the comings and goings of Illinois birds. His book,* The Birds of Illinois, *covers more than 400 species that reside in Illinois or stop for a time as they pass by.***

Retired Springfield ornithologist Vern Kleen says few can match Bohlen's field experience. "He's got the advantage of being able to identify things at great distance that others couldn't because he's spent so much time in the field. He can detect subtleties more quickly. He's got an edge."

It was a tiny songbird, smaller than a golf ball, that drove Bohlen to begin his life's quest to learn everything he could about birds. He saw it during a junior high school field trip to a modest park in his hometown of Moweaqua. "We all went out to Moweaqua Park, which had about 10 trees in it," Bohlen says. "There was this little golden-crowned kinglet, and you know how small they are." Bohlen says the kinglet was tame enough for students to approach closely.

"We weren't actually looking for birds. We had no binoculars," he says. "And I just thought, 'What is that? How can I not know what that is?' It just seemed like something out of the blue. Here was something I didn't know anything about." Back in class, students went to work trying to identify the birds they had seen. "We had these bird cards and we were supposed to learn 25, 50 birds and I learned every one of them," he says. "I couldn't stop. I wanted to know what every one of them was and I wanted to see every one of them."

Bohlen graduated from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston and was headed for Southern Illinois University Carbondale for graduate school in 1967 when the Vietnam War interrupted his studies. Rather than be drafted, he joined the Marine Corps and served for three and a half years. "I've been back to Asia several times since the war," he says. "I really like the area. I didn't like it then so much." After the war, Bohlen was in a hurry to start his career and decided not to return to school. "I was probably 26 or 27 by then, and I just wanted to get to doing something instead of going back to school."

He got a part-time job at the Illinois State Museum and went full time as a technical assistant in 1970. Technical assistants perform such basic curatorial work as preparing study skins of animals. "It's hard work and it's nasty work a lot of times."

*Photograph by Chris Young*



***Snow geese travel across the February sky in Sangamon County, where H. David Bohlen has based his bird-watching activities nearly every day for the past 35 years.***

Before work, after work and during his lunch break, Bohlen headed outside to watch birds. An assignment to band birds at Carpenter Park opened the door to expanding his work with birds to office hours. By 1976, he focused his efforts on Sangamon County, documenting changes over time as it became more and more urban.

In Bohlen's eyes, not all of the changes have been positive. A landscape where prairies, wetlands, marshes and woodlands are replaced by houses, roads, parking lots and crop fields supports fewer bird species. Those that can adapt to civilization, like European starlings, English house sparrows, ring-billed gulls and pigeons, multiply, while short-eared owls, northern harriers and other birds of wide-open spaces rarely choose to nest in Illinois. "I get real discouraged sometimes."

Bohlen says grassland birds like upland sandpipers don't nest in Sangamon County anymore, either. But others, like great blue herons and turkey vultures, have adapted and seem to be thriving.

Bohlen says his curiosity about birds keeps him searching the back roads of the county. "During migration, I stay out a little bit later, usually from daylight to 2:30 or 3 p.m., which over the long run has gotten me way behind on my paperwork," he says. "I'm collecting data faster than I can process it." Bohlen says he's unsure exactly how and when his Sangamon County study will be published, but he's leaning toward an online presentation that would make the data accessible to anyone.

Because he has carefully tracked when birds arrive and depart during migration, he says the data may be useful to scientists studying the effects of global warming. He says birds arriving earlier because of warm weather may find themselves out of sync with food sources. Warblers migrate north just as the insects they eat hatch, for example, and Bohlen says some birds may lose out if nature's delicate equilibrium is upset by climate change and birds migrate before food is ready.

Bohlen says he hopes the information he has collected about birds in Sangamon County will help people better appreciate their avian neighbors. He says heightened awareness of birds living side-by-side with people is the first step toward their conservation. "If they don't know they are there, they're not going to care."

The soft-spoken Bohlen learned to raise his voice when he felt other interests clouded the needs of birds and the environment. In 1997, he spoke out when trees were cut down to run power lines to a large Christmas light display set up in Riverside Park, across the Sangamon River from Carpenter Park, Sangamon County's only state nature preserve. He opposed allowing mountain bikes in the Lick Creek Wildlife Preserve at Lake Springfield in 1999, and even got arrested for protesting the removal of dirt from Carpenter Park in 1992.

"How do birds survive among all of this? Birds have ways of adapting, but they can only do so much."

Bohlen knows that well, having braved biting winds and worse to watch countless flocks make their way across the Illinois sky. ❑

*Chris Young is Outdoors editor for* The State Journal-Register *of Springfield.*

# MINE DWELLERS

## *Zoologist makes the world safer for flying mammals*

by Ashley Wiehle

Timothy Carter knew at a young age that he would dedicate his life's work to an animal often no larger than three fingers pressed together, an animal that some people detest, many fear and nearly all misunderstand. He's heard it all: Bats are mean, frightening, even evil.

The zoologist at Southern Illinois University Carbondale says he believes the stigma has somewhat eased since his youth. "People are starting to understand that bats aren't evil or bad."

Carter has never needed convincing. Standing before his collection of stuffed bats, he stops to note a distinguishing feature that makes each bat different from the one pinned next to it in the opened Plexiglas case. "I think this one is really beautiful," Carter says, stroking a finger down the spine of a tiny ginger-colored bat, the Eastern red. This species is noted for its ability to camouflage itself in foliage by hanging on one foot so it resembles a leaf. "You've probably walked underneath dozens of red bats and not even known it."

A Connecticut native, Carter's interest in bats began when he and some classmates teamed up for a science project. Learning about the bats sparked his interest, he says, and he knew they could hold his attention throughout his career. But Carter, an assistant research professor at SIUC, where he obtained his doctorate degree in 2003, points out that he never loses the label of "student" when it comes to his subjects. "This is an area where very little is known, so the sky is the limit. We know so little about them, so basically any question you could ask is unknown."

Carter's small campus office boasts

*Photographs by Russell Bailey, courtesy of Southern Illinois University Carbondale*



***Zoologist Timothy Carter handles an endangered Indiana bat, which found a safe haven in an abandoned southern Illinois silica mine.***



***SIUC's Timothy Carter headed up a project to stabilize entrances to defunct southern Illinois silica mines. Steel arches and heavy timbers keep open the entrance to Unimin Specialty Minerals' Magazine Mine near Elco, which is home to as many as 50,000 bats in five species.***

posters and photos of bats and serves more as a landing post for the professor, who spends most of his time out in the field working to restore safe habitats for the bats that call southern Illinois home.

Thousands upon thousands of bats now thrive because Carter's office isn't more accommodating: His time in the field has restored many microcrystalline silica mines that have proved to be perfect resting places for many species of bat.

Microcrystalline silica, a compound composed of tiny crystals, is used to make blue chalks in pool cues and serves as filler in many commercial paints. Owned by Unimin Specialty Minerals, the mines, which have been defunct since the early 1990s, have drawn a burgeoning bat population. Carter and some of his graduate students have been working diligently to ensure the mine dwellers' safety.

*Photograph by Russell Bailey, courtesy of SIUC*



***Zoologist Timothy Carter***

Magazine Mine, an abandoned Alexander County site, was home to a few thousand bats in 1999 when Carter first began surveying the population. Within just a few years, the population grew to 33,500 Indiana bats, making it the "fastest growing hibernation site in the country," Carter says.

More than 85 percent of Indiana bats hibernate at only nine locations in the United States, which means that a significant percentage of the Indiana bat population could be terminated if one site becomes unstable. Over time, entrances to microcrystalline silica mines begin to seal themselves. If a mine with a population of bats closes itself off, that essentially exterminates each of the bats.

After seeing how rapidly the population of Magazine Mine exploded, Carter began talking with officials at Unimin Mine to see if they had similar sites that might boast bat populations. Through discussions with the company, Carter became acquainted with Jason Mine, a defunct Union County site that has been a popular home for the bats.

"Jason Mine has bats during the summer and winter, which is kind of unique," Carter says. Most species of bats hibernate throughout the winter. There are a few species of bats that hibernate in both summer and winter, but bats typically select different hibernation sites for their seasonal sabbaticals.

To head off a potentially species-destroying disaster, Carter and his team of graduate student helpers began to construct a mechanism that could bolster the entrance to a mine even as the material around it began to collapse. With the help of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Unimin, the team created steel arches and wood supports that will keep the entrance from sealing itself off.

"Jason was down to an opening of 4 foot by 10 foot, and it was one of the mines where numbers were down," Carter says. "We found evidence of vandals going in and shooting bats."

Carter and his team devised a plan. They constructed a "bat gate," which is a barrier comprised of long, narrow openings. The openings are too thin for a human to penetrate, but are just the perfect size for the graceful entrance and exit of bats. Locked doors on either sides of the gate allow researchers to retain access to the mine.

***Although the average person's aversion to bats has waned slightly, Carter remains baffled as to why anyone would be afraid of his tiny subjects. His favorite in his stuffed collection is the Northern long-eared bat.***

Although the average person's aversion to bats has waned slightly, Carter remains baffled as to why anyone would be afraid of his tiny subjects. His favorite in his stuffed collection is the Northern long-eared bat, which gives the impression of listening to the professor as he lightly touches its long ears. "I love this guy and his ears," Carter says, pausing to take a closer look at the specimen that required hours to preserve.

"They're fascinating," Carter says. "They can fly, and they do so essentially silently. They're a difficult group to study. They're fast and hard to catch." The bats' speed — 15 to 20 miles per hour — combined with their tiny stature makes studying them "the worst of both worlds."

Worst of both worlds or not, Carter isn't about to give up his bats to study a more conventional animal. He recently accepted a position at Ball State University, and will start teaching at the Muncie, Ind., school in August. However, he has no plans to abandon his work with the southern Illinois mines.

"The thing I'm most proud of is what we've done with Jason Mine," Carter says, "and the fact that I'm able to make a huge difference here. I have the opportunity to impact hundreds of thousands of animals with my research. They are a federally endangered species, on the brink of extinction." ❑

*Ashley Wiehle is a reporter for the Carbondale-based* Southern Illinoisan.

# EXOTIC ENCOUNTERS

## *Entomologist knows bad guys when he sees them*

by Vera Leopold

Charlie Helm plays a key role in homeland security. He has years of experience in detecting foreign invaders, albeit of an unusual nature. Helm, senior research entomologist at the Illinois Natural History Survey, is a veteran in the war against exotic insects.

Helm is state coordinator for the Co-operative Agricultural Pest Survey and has been with the Champaign-based Natural History Survey for more than 32 years. Though he officially retired last summer, many weekdays find him still in his office at work on continuing projects.

Over the past decade and a half, Helm's main task has been to work with a coalition of state and federal agricultural organizations to survey exotic pests in Illinois, detect existing threats and, he hopes, stop them from spreading.

The agricultural pest survey is essentially the second line of defense against "invader" species in the state. The first, Helm says, is border patrol — inspection officers at the country's ports and airports who check wooden shipping containers for insect stowaways.

But examining each of the millions of containers that come into the United States every year "is just not humanly possible." So when the pests first infiltrate the state, it's up to people like Helm to canvas high-risk sites and find them before they become established.

Working from behind the front line can be challenging. In Helm's specialty area, wood-boring and bark beetles, the bugs excel at staying under the radar. That's why the emerald ash borer tops his list of exotic pests to worry about in Illinois, though no specimens have yet been found in the state.

The emerald ash borer, a small metallic-green beetle whose larval stage feeds under the bark of ash trees, was building a stronghold in Michigan for five to 10 years before anyone even discovered it was there. So far, the borer has killed 8 million to 10 million ash trees there.

Helm is concerned a similar situation could unfold in Illinois.

*Photographs by Vera Leopold*



***Charlie Helm, who coordinates the state survey of invasive agricultural pests, officially retired last summer but continues his work, which includes organizing species collections.***



***The Asian long-horned beetle is one of the many invasive insects that Charlie Helm has monitored in Illinois for the survey.***

"We're out there beating the bush, but it's one of those that's going to be tough to find," he says. "And I'm afraid when we do find it, we're going to learn that it's probably very well established. It's just unfortunate, that seems to be the nature of this beast."

Efforts to stem the spread of exotic pests often come with a staggering price tag. And the costs can hit closer to home, too. When the Asian long-horned beetle started invading the Chicago area in the late '90s, more than 1,400 old neighborhood trees had to be removed to control the infestation.

"There were people that literally cried real tears," says Helm. "I mean, you can imagine a city tree being cut down, in your parkway or your backyard. It's hard to take. Particularly for some folks [who] had seen the same thing happen because of Dutch Elm disease back in the '50s."

Exotic pests can be dangerous because, once they dig in, efforts to eliminate them are usually moot.

"I always say it's sort of like trying to unscramble an egg," Helm says. "Once they're here, they're in the mix, and you're not very likely to ever eradicate a well-established exotic pest. In most cases, you just have to learn to live with them."

Though Helm's career of late has been dedicated to chasing down villains of the

insect world, he says he's fascinated by all bugs.

"There are both good and bad actors. Not all insects are problems. In fact, most of them aren't," he says. "But the bad guys can be pretty fascinating, too."

Helm got hooked on entomology in 7th grade when a science teacher inspired him to start a bug collection, and his grandmother made him an insect net.

He started out pre-med at Northwestern University in Evanston, but soon realized his passion was not in medicine but in working outdoors with insects. He completed his undergraduate degree in zoology at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston with "as much entomology as I could take," and went on to get his master's in entomology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Helm didn't have to go far after finishing school. Almost immediately, he got on board with the Natural History Survey in 1973 as a summer helper in soybean insect research. His office in the new natural history building looks out on the grounds of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus.

Over the years at the survey, Helm dedicated considerable time to soybean studies and contributed to others' biological control programs, including one for the invasive purple loosestrife. Through it all, he has maintained his passion for bugs.

"I can't say enough about the opportunity this place has provided me to grow and to stay interested in insects," he says.

Helm's office has few creepy-crawlies on display, save some recently collected brown recluse specimens (though spiders are not insects, he is quick to point out) and a single Asian long-horned beetle nestled in a small white box, like a piece of bizarre jewelry.

Most of the real "wowie-zowie" bugs are kept in humble quarters, mounted and labeled in a separate collection room. Nearly all of them are native to Illinois, but their astounding variety, from species as small as a pencil point to beetles more than an inch long, suggests more exotic locales.

Carefully lined up by the hundreds in stacked cases, the specimens are tagged with their scientific names, collection sites and dates. Helm has done most of this meticulous cataloging himself, and plans to finish more cases before leaving.

His wife, an English teacher, marvels that he can put so much time into such close work, Helm says. "But I like it. It kind of puts you into a Zen state as you're going along focusing on each one."

Now that he's retired, Helm is looking forward to taking a few tropical vacations.

But new projects keep finding him. He is helping out with a "mobile science center," talking about the biology and diversity of insects to area schoolchildren in grades K-8.

Helm isn't in any hurry to leave, and it's easy to see what keeps a hold on him.

"[Insects] seem to have adapted to exploit almost any sort of resource that you can imagine. There's incredible diversity that they exhibit — the size, the colors, their life histories," he says. "The more you get into it, you can just continue to learn things every day." ❑

*Vera Leopold, an* Illinois Issues *graduate assistant, is seeking a master's degree in environmental studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield.*

*Photograph by Vera Leopold*



***Charlie Helm has cataloged and tagged species that fill dozens of cases.***

## Hate panelists quit to protest appointment

Gov. **Rod Blagojevich**'s appointment of an aide to Nation of Islam leader **Louis Farrakhan** sparked five other members to resign because **Claudette Marie Johnson** didn't repudiate anti-Semitic and anti-gay statements made by Farrakhan. Johnson, also known as Sister Claudette Marie Muhammad, is the Nation of Islam's chief of protocol.

**Richard Hirschhaut**, executive director of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, and **Lonnie Nasatir**, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League, were the first to step down in protest from the unpaid panel.

State Rep. **Lou Lang**, a Jewish Democrat from Skokie, was appointed as a replacement, but resigned after one day's service. **Howard Kaplan**, a Chicago lawyer and chair of the Hate Crimes Prosecution Council in Cook County, left the commission the same day. Kaplan headed the anti-discrimination panel under former Gov. **George Ryan**.

**Alan Spellberg**, a supervisor in the Cook County state's attorney's office, then turned in his resignation.

The panel's goal is to promote tolerance and anti-discrimination policies. The governor hasn't asked Johnson to step down, but he said he would convene representatives of the Jewish, African-American and gay communities to discuss the larger issues.

## U of Chicago taps chief

**Robert Zimmer**, the provost of Brown University in Providence, R.I., will assume the presidency of the University of Chicago July 1. Zimmer will replace **Don Randel**, who will lead the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Zimmer was a mathematician at the University of Chicago for more than 20 years before becoming Brown's provost in 2002.

## Aide fired after DUI

**Daniel Stefanski**, a special assistant to the director of the Illinois Department of Transportation, was dismissed after his second arrest for driving under the influence. He had been on disability leave.

## Historic preservation head joins Lincoln panel

**Julie Cellini**, Illinois State Historic Preservation Agency's board chairwoman and secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Foundation, was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. Congress created the commission to plan a national celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Great Emancipator's birth in 2009.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich recommended that Cellini, a Springfield resident who has chaired the preservation agency's board since 1985, be appointed to the commission. Cellini was a leader in efforts to open the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and is involved in planning the state-level 2009 bicentennial commemoration.

Recent actions by the national bicentennial commission include calls to restore outdoor Lincoln sculptures across the country, including more than a dozen in Illinois.

## HONORS

**Ang Lee**, an alumnus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, collected the Academy Award for achievement in directing for his film *Brokeback Mountain*. The film, based on an Annie Proulx short story, is a tale of two sheep herders who fall in love in the 1960s while isolated on a Wyoming mountain.

Lee, who was born in Taiwan to Chinese parents, was educated in the United States. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in theater from UIUC in 1980.

Lee's other films include *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, *The Ice Storm*, *Eat Drink Man Woman*, which received a Best Foreign Film Oscar nomination, *Sense and Sensibility* and *The Wedding Banquet*.



*Mary Dempsey*

**Mary Dempsey**, who is the Chicago Public Library commissioner, is scheduled on April 27 to receive the Illinois Humanities Council's 2006 Public Humanities Award.

"The award recognizes individuals and organizations for their contributions to public understanding of the role the humanities play in transforming lives and strengthening communities," according to the council. "Commissioner Dempsey will be honored for her commitment to lifelong learning, to public access to information, and for championing the freedom of all people to read, learn, and discover at the public library."



*Lance Speere*

**Lance Speere**, general manager of the *Daily Egyptian*, the student newspaper at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, has been elected president of College Media Advisors Inc.

## QUOTABLE

"It was going to be an interview on contraceptives. That's all I knew about it. I had no idea I was going to be asked if I was 'the gay governor.'"

*Gov. Rod Blagojevich as quoted in a* St. Louis Post-Dispatch *story, discussing a comment he made to the newspaper's editorial board. He said when he agreed to appear on Comedy Central's* The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, *he had no idea the show was entertainment rather than a legitimate news program.*

**For updated news see the *Illinois Issues* Web site at http://illinoisissues.uis.edu**



# WE NEED THE PEOPLE

who need affordable housing

There's a shortage of affordable housing in the Chicago area. A critical shortage. And if you think it just affects the very poor, think again. Firefighters and police officers and nurses can't afford a place to live in or near the communities they serve. Seniors are being forced to move away from the very place they call home. Young people can't get started in the towns and cities where they grew up.

Making sure we build affordable housing is in everyone's interest. Yet, even though a great majority of people support more moderate- and low-income housing where they live, the few voices against can be pretty loud. So when affordable housing is proposed in your community, it's important to speak up and say, "Yes." Affordable housing is worth fighting for.

Housing Illinois is a network of 45 housing organizations, lending institutions, housing developers, foundations, public agencies, and municipal leaders working to increase the acceptance and availability of affordable housing in the Chicago area.

## HOUSING ILLINOIS

Contact:
www.HousingIllinois.org
(312)663-3936



incomplet

**Expanded funding has made Illinois a national leader in providing access to preschool. Unfortunately, thousands of young children remain underserved. There's still more work to do.**

**Let's set a good example for our young learners and finish the job we started.**

**Join Early Learning Illinois in urging our leaders to continue investing in young children by approving the "Preschool for All" proposal.**

**Visit www.earlylearningillinois.org**

EARLY LEARNING ILLINOIS
access. options. opportunities.

## Not news few tenured teachers rate poorly



Charles N. Wheeler III beats the tall grass around the dead horse arguments opposing teacher tenure and proposed new procedures for teacher evaluations (see *Illinois Issues*, January, page 34).

This well-plowed ground won't yield any new arguments or insights. To those who work in real schools, it's not news that few tenured teachers are rated poorly.

Administrators hire teachers. They have four years to determine which teachers to trust. They've been evaluating since 1984 or 1985. They are accountable to the public for teacher evaluations. They hire mentors for young teachers; they provide workshops and professional development training to all teachers; and they routinely work with teachers. Finally, given the artistic nature of teaching and the complex ambiguities of personality, most evaluators know that they are just as well off with the teacher they know as with an unknown, inexperienced replacement.

Wheeler's strangest argument is the assertion that, since current teachers have not greatly increased student test scores, maybe firing more teachers would. Wheeler's flawed assumption rests on the belief that hoards of unemployed, highly qualified, certified teachers are standing at the gate, clawing for an opportunity to raise student test scores. It rests on the assumption that evaluators ignore these reformers and prefer to hire incompetent teachers.

Two questions: With a nod toward witch-hunting episodes of the past, does Wheeler now have, or has he ever had, a list of Illinois teachers in his hand whom he knows to be incompetent? In what specific acts were these teachers engaged that caused Wheeler to judge them as incompetent?

No witch-hunts, please. Let's focus on what works. We need better information on improving the art of teaching, on engaging students, on helping teachers collaborate, on building professional learning communities. Let's inspire teachers instead of terrorize them. The task ahead of us is daunting enough without proliferating more time-consuming evaluation proeedures.

***Bill Harshbarger***
***High School***
***History Teacher***
***Mattoon***

## Write us

Your comments are welcome.
Please keep them brief (250 words).
We reserve the right to exeerpt them.

Letters to the Editor
*Illinois Issues*
University of Illinois at Springfield
Springfield, IL 62794-9243
e-mail address on Internet:
boyer-long.peggy@uis.edu

And visit Illinois Issues online by going to:
http://illinoisissues.uis.edu

THE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS

The Township Officials of Illinois (TOI), headquartered in the state capital of Springfield, serves as a clearinghouse of information for Illinois townships.

TOI was founded in 1907 and today represents 99 percent of the state's townships.

***Township Officials of Illinois***
408 South Fifth Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

*Bryan E. Smith*
Executive Direetor
Telephone (866) 897-4688
Fax (217) 744-7419
www.toi.org

TRI STATES
PUBLIC RADIO
WIUM 91.3 & WIUW 89.5

**Listen online at *www.tristatesradio.com***

*NEWS, INFORMATION, & ENTERTAINMENT FROM*

**NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO** npr

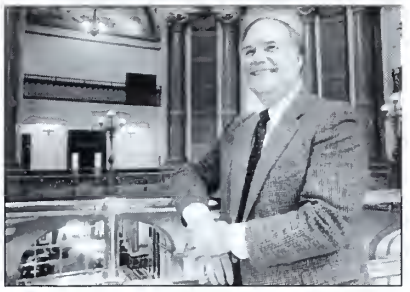
**PUBLIC RADIO INTERNATIONAL** PRI

**GREAT LAKES RADIO CONSORTIUM**

**TRI STATES PUBLIC RADIO**
**WIUM 91.3/WIUW 89.5**

**News Department**
**Phone: 309/298-1873 Fax: 309/298-2133 E-mail: rg-egger@wiu.edu**

Charles N Wheeler III



# The new millennium has been tough on Illinois workers and their families

by Charles N. Wheeler III

The stereotype is familiar — the factory worker who used to earn $19 an hour before his job was shipped to Mexico now earns minimum wage making Big Macs.

All too often, though, it's true. The new millennium has been tough on Illinois workers and their families, as the state's changing economy has seen the loss of thousands of high-paying jobs with good benefits, replaced by new jobs with lower pay and fewer benefits.

The bad news is that things are likely to get worse in coming years, according to a detailed study of the state's employment picture — findings that merit serious attention from policymakers.

The study, *The State of Working Illinois 2005*, warns that much of the projected job growth in the next few years will come in lower-paying occupations offering few benefits. The predictable result? Increased demands for such public services as education and health care, even as state revenue growth tails off.

As reported in *Illinois Issues* last month, the study found that the median household income in Illinois dropped $6,000 over the past six years, leaving Illinois families with about the same buying power as they had in 1989.

The dismal picture stemmed largely from changes in the state's economy in which higher-paying manufacturing jobs with good fringe benefits have been replaced by lower-paying service sector jobs that frequently provide neither health insurance nor pension benefits.

***The bad news is that things are likely to get worse in coming years, according to a detailed study of the state's employment picture — findings that merit serious attention from policymakers.***

The downward spiral will continue, the study predicts, unless policymakers can reverse the current trends. Relying on projections from the state Department of Employment Security, project researchers note that almost half of the roughly 600,000 new jobs expected to be created in the 10-year period ending in 2012 will be in just 30 occupational categories, out of more than 770 the department tracks.

While some of the expected new jobs have good salaries — the median wage for registered nurses, the fastest growing category at almost 19,000 new jobs, was $48,954 in 2004 — 54 percent had median wages of less than $36,408, the minimum needed by a family of four in rural Illinois to meet basic living expenses. In Chicago, the same family would have to earn $43,704 to cover costs of housing, food, health care and other necessities, according to the Economic Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank.

Moreover, four of the top 10 growing occupations — accounting for an estimated 62,000 new jobs — pay less than $19,350 a year, the federal poverty level for a family of four. The low-paying occupations include the second-largest growth category, retail salespersons, expected to add almost 16,000 new jobs at a median income of $18,624.

The projections suggest that "Illinois policymakers and advocates should be prepared to deal with a changing economy that will, for the most part, continue to create many new jobs that pay stagnant to declining wages, [and] provide fewer healthcare and pension benefits," the report noted.

The study was a joint effort by Northern Illinois University's Office for Social Policy Research and its Regional Development Institute and by the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, a Chicago-based think tank.

While the report makes no policy recommendations, its authors hope the detailed research will provide a starting point for political leaders and other policymakers to devise better economic development strategies.

"We wanted to get everybody interested in the size of the problem before offering solutions," says Ralph Martire, executive director of the center.

But Martire and Paul Kleppner, director of Northern's Office for Social Policy Research, clearly have some ideas about what needs to be done.

An obvious starting point is improving the educational opportunities available to the workforce. The study found a close link between education and well-paying jobs, with two-thirds of those without a high school education earning less than $50,000, while almost 60 percent of those with a college degree earned more than $75,000. The gap between the median wage of those without a high school diploma and those with a college degree was $12.74 an hour, the study found.

Kleppner believes the state needs to reduce high school dropout rates, especially among minority students, while Martire says people need to think of public education as something that goes beyond high school. "Twelfth grade doesn't cut it any more," he says.

Illinois also should focus on its strengths, such as its agricultural bounty and its central location, Martire adds. "We ought to be leading the country in green technology like biodiesel," he says.

***The gap between the median wage of those without a high school diploma and those with a college degree was $12.74 an hour, the study found.***

"We ought to be doing everything we can to maximize ourself as the transportation hub."

Current economic development efforts should be evaluated more closely, Kleppner says. The state should "stop subsidizing people to bring in low-wage jobs" in the guise of providing workers a steppingstone to better-paying positions, an unlikely result, he said, and government officials should investigate whether incentives offered prospective employers actually produce the promised jobs.

"State and local governments give them the money, but they never follow up to see if the jobs were created," he notes.

The researchers concede the report won't inspire action in the final weeks of the spring legislative session, as lawmakers focus on approving a budget for FY 2007 and heading out to the campaign trail. But the researchers are working on additional reports to be released in the coming months, in hopes of keeping job creation on the political agenda leading up to the November election.

After the election, state Reps. David Miller, a Democrat from Calumet City, and Donald Moffitt, a Republican from Gilson, plan to introduce legislation for a bipartisan economic development task force to study the issue more closely and develop policy recommendations, the researchers say.

The task is urgent. If the current trends continue unchecked, Martire says Illinois faces a future in which "we have less revenue base than currently to meet greater needs in terms of health care, social services and unemployment." ❑

*Charles N. Wheeler III is director of the Public Affairs Reporting program at the University of Illinois at Springfield.*




# The third edition of the classic text on Illinois government




## Almanac of Illinois Politics – 2006




☑ Yes, I want to order today
Almanac of Illinois Politics-2006

_____copies x $45.00 . . . . . _____
plus postage and handling
($3.00 first book, $.50 for each additional book) + _____
TOTAL _____

Ship to:
Name _____
Address _____
City_____ State____Zip _____

Bill to:
Name _____
Address _____
City_____ State____Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____
Credit card ❑ VISA ❑ Mastercard
Acct. No._____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____

4-3-60002-0650
2.06-00662-42892

to the General Assembly, to the court system, to school and sanitation boards, you'll find all the basics of state and local government in this single source. Used for high school and college courses on state government for more than a decade, *Governing Illinois* is the perfect guide to the inner workings of the statehouse, the courthouse, and the council chambers.

**To order call 217-206-6502 or purchase online at http://cspl.uis.edu/CenterPublications/**

But Martire and Paul Kleppner, director of Northern's Office for Social Policy Research, clearly have some ideas about what needs to be done.

An obvious starting point is improving the educational opportunities available to the workforce. The study found a close link between education and well-paying jobs, with two-thirds of those without a high school education earning less than $50,000, while almost 60 percent of those with a college degree earned more than $75,000. The gap between the median wage of those without a high school diploma and those with a college degree was $12.74 an hour, the study found.

Kleppner believes the state needs to reduce high school dropout rates, especially among minority students, while Martire says people need to think of public education as something that goes beyond high school. "Twelfth grade doesn't cut it any more," he says.

Illinois also should focus on its strengths, such as its agricultural bounty

***The gap between the median wage of those without a high school diploma and those with a college degree was $12.74 an hour, the study found.***

"We ought to be doing everything we can to maximize ourself as the transportation hub."

Current economic development efforts should be evaluated more closely, Kleppner says. The state should "stop subsidizing people to bring in low-wage jobs" in the guise of providing workers a steppingstone to better-paying positions, an unlikely result, he said, and government officials should investigate whether incentives offered prospective employers actually produce the promised jobs.

The researchers concede the report won't inspire action in the final weeks of the spring legislative session, as lawmakers focus on approving a budget for FY 2007 and heading out to the campaign trail. But the researchers are working on additional reports to be released in the coming months, in hopes of keeping job creation on the political agenda leading up to the November election.

After the election, state Reps. David Miller, a Democrat from Calumet City, and Donald Moffitt, a Republican from Gilson, plan to introduce legislation for a bipartisan economic development task force to study the issue more closely and develop policy recommendations, the researchers say.

The task is urgent. If the current trends continue unchecked, Martire says Illinois faces a future in which "we have less revenue base than currently to meet greater needs in terms of health care, social services and unemployment." ❑

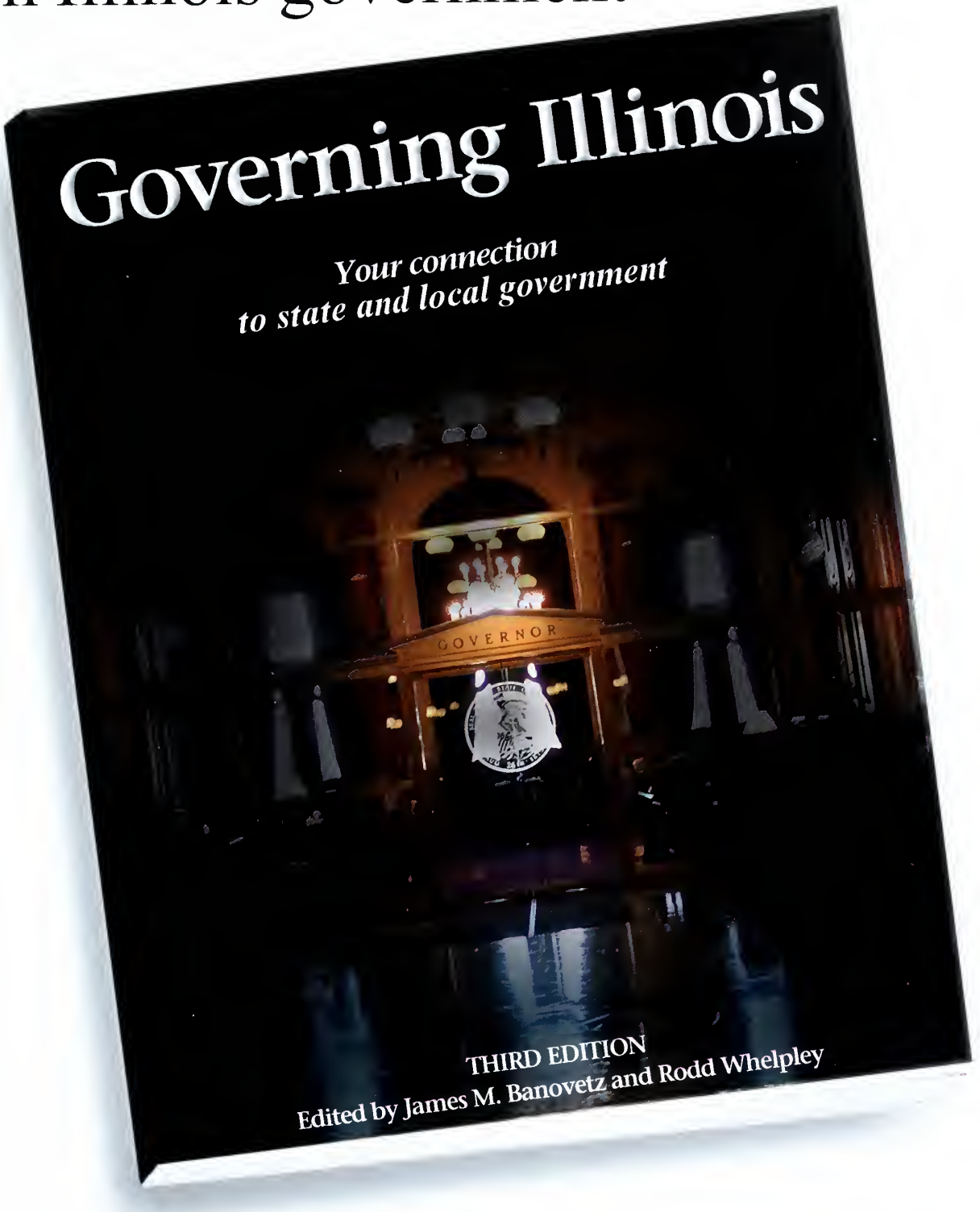
NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 1901 SPRINGFIELD, IL
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

Center Publications
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT SPRINGFIELD
PO Box 19243
Springfield IL 62794-9980

jholman@il-press.com

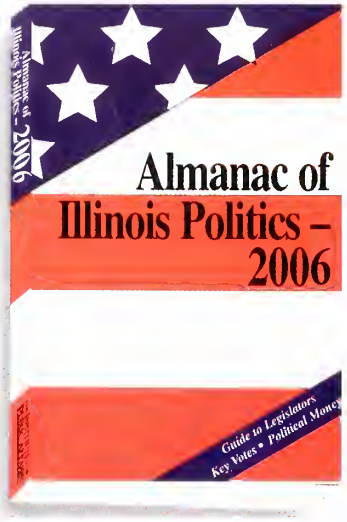
# The third edition of the classic text on Illinois government




*Governing Illinois* is a compact — but complete — description of how Illinois government works. From the state constitution, to the General Assembly, to the court system, to school and sanitation boards, you'll find all the basics of state and local government in this single source. Used for high school and college courses on state government for more than a decade, *Governing Illinois* is the perfect guide to the inner workings of the statehouse, the courthouse, and the council chambers.

**To order call 217-206-6502 or purchase online at http://cspl.uis.edu/CenterPublications/**

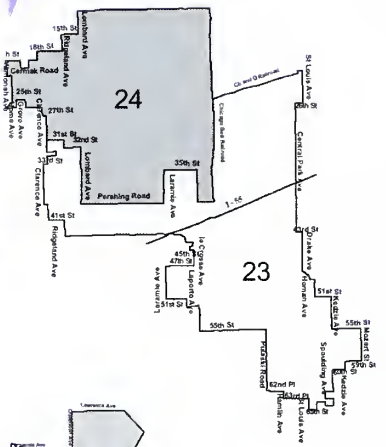
# Almanac of Illinois Politics – 2006

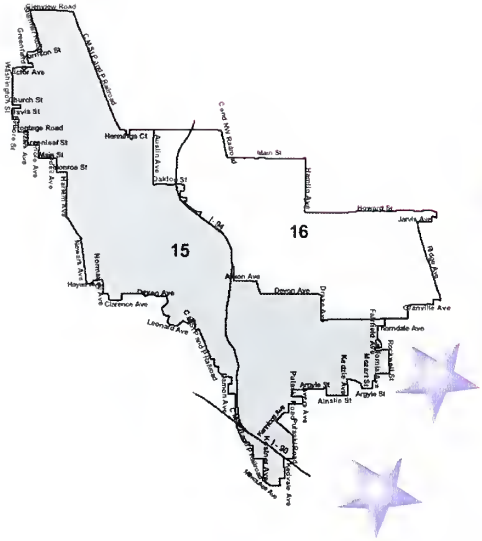


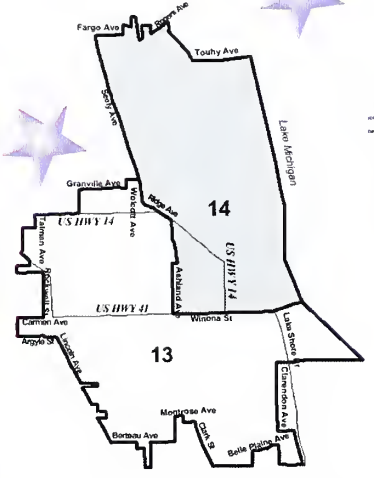

## *The #1 guide to Illinois government*

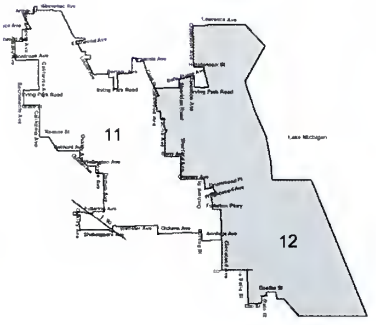
Since its first edition in 1990, the biennial *Almanac of Illinois Politics* has been *the* resource for information on the key players in Illinois government.

- **U.S. Senators, Congressmen, State Senators** and **State Representatives**
- **Phone numbers, fax numbers, e-mail addresses** and their **web sites**
- **Voting records** on the top issues of 2004
- Top **contributors,** legislators and their opponents




## It's all in the *Almanac of Illinois Politics — 2006.*

*"A very worthwhile reference for everyone who needs a ready information source on state government."*

— Michael J. Madigan
Speaker of the Illinois House

*"I have always found the Almanac of Illinois Politics to be very helpful. It is the ideal informational resource on state governement."*

— Frank Watson
Minority Leader, Illinois Senate

**$45.00** ***plus*** **postage and handling**

**($3.00 first book, $.50 for each additional book)**

**Please refer to the tear-out order form inside this issue!**